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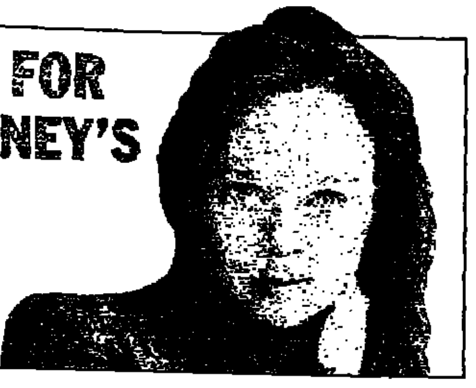

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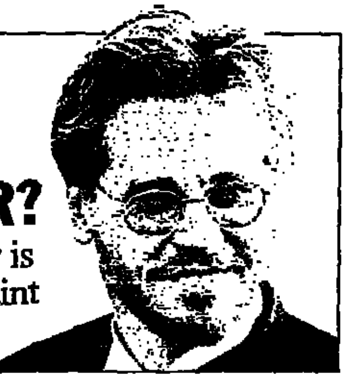

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Minister and more than 120 candidates disclose their opposition to single currency

Tories rush into ranks of Eurosceptics

By Philip Webster and Andrew Pierce

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MORE THAN 120 former Conservative MPs had last night joined the headlong rush to declare their antipathy to a single European currency after being let off the leash by John Major last week.

They include a junior minister who put his job on the line by openly breaching the Government's wait-and-see approach, while a number of other minsters are more covertly letting their constituents know their opposition to monetary union.

The education minister James Paice — whose Cambridgeshire South East constituency adjoins John Major's — was the first minister to nail his colours firmly to the mast, writing in his election address that a single currency would be "a huge step leading inexorably towards political union ... I do not believe Britain or Europe is ready for that."

The statement means that Mr Major will come under pressure to sack him today, having made clear last week that ministers who broke the line would be dismissed.

A survey by *The Times* has found that nine other ministers have constituency staff who tell inquirers of their hostility to monetary union — even though they stick to the government line in their offical literature . They included Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, and William Hague, the Welsh Secretary.

The former Tory MPs expressing their opposition in campaign literature included Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the backbench 1922 Committee, two former advisers to Mr Clarke — David Ruffley, candidate for Bury St Edmunds, and David Cameron, candidate for Stafford — and most of those with party posts at Conservative Central Office.

The survey shows that much of the Conservative party in the country is standing on a different platform from the Government. But senior ministers — while conceding that the appearance of disunity would be damaging — were privately emphasising the advantages of a large number of Conservative candidates coming out against the single currency.

One said: "It is playing well on the doorsteps. We did not want it to happen like this, but now it is time to make the best of it." The greatest fear among party strategists is of a backlash from the pro-European wing which could throw the campaign into turmoil.

Edwina Currie was quick to remonstrate yesterday, saying: "It's a bit odd if policy is being made by candidates and not by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet."

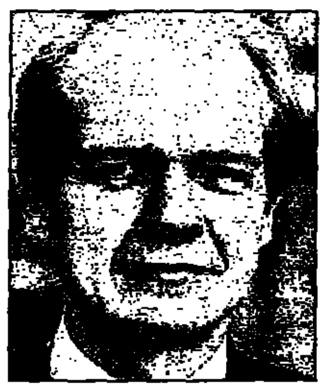
And the opposition parties had already gone on the attack after Dame Angela Rumbold, a Tory vice-chairman in charge of candidates, declared her outright opposition to a single currency. Labour said the Tories were "plunging into civil war" and the Liberal Democrats said the party was breaking up.

Tony Blair said Tory ministers would be like "ferrets in a sack" if the Government were re-elected, fighting for jobs but with different views on issues like Europe. "No-one knows where the Government stands. No one even knows where Government ministers stand."

But Mr Major emphasised that Dame Angela was in a different position from members of the Government. "Like every other backbencher she is entitled to express her views on an issue which may or may not come to fruition in unknown circumstances at an unknown time."

The number of Tory candidates coming out against the single currency is expected to soar over the next few days. Paul Sykes, the Yorkshire businessmen helping to finance candidates who are agianst monetary union, has so far backed 167 and expects the figure to go up to 200.

The Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley went close to dismissing the prospects for a single currency. Asked whether the could imagine any circumstances in which he would vote in favour of it, he said: "I have such a fertile imagination I can imagine almost anything."



WILLIAM HAGUE

Campaign leaflet: "Referendum before decision"

Campaign HQ: "Not in favour of single currency"

MICHAEL FORSYTH

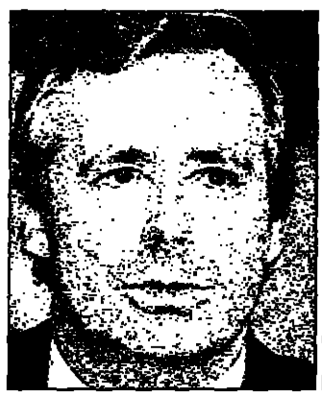
Leaflet: No reference to single currency

HQ: "Privately opposed to it"

MICHAEL ANCRAM

Leaflet: "No diminishing of sovereignty"

HQ: "Does not want a single currency to happen"



SIR PAUL BERESFORD

Leaflet: Not released

HQ: "No circumstances in near future where he would vote for it"

SIMON BURNS

Leaflet: No comment

HQ: "In a vote I think you would find he would not support single currency"

ERIC FORTH

Leaflet: "Opposes a federal Europe"

HQ: "Does not support single currency"

ROGER KNAPMAN

Leaflet: "No more erosion of sovereignty"

HQ: "Absolutely opposed"

JOHN WATTS

Leaflet: None yet

Said: "Totally opposed to fudged single currency"

GWILYM JONES

Leaflet: "No to federal Europe"

HQ: "Draw your own conclusions"

Policy changes when local HQs answer the questions

By Andrew Pierce, Mark Henderson Dominic Kennedy and Valerie Elliott

A SURVEY carried out by *The Times* has found that ministers are unofficially breaching the Government's wait and see policy in their constituency campaigning.

Inquiries by *Times* reporters about the personal views of ministers found that they officially set out the Government's carefully crafted line in their election literature.

But staff working for them in their constituencies campaign freely volunteer the information that their candidates are strongly hostile to a single currency.

Reporters, posing as constituents, asked the association officers of 40 ministers whether their election addresses reflected the wait and see line. In the case of nine of them, including two Cabinet Ministers — William Hague and Michael Forsyth — the reporters were told of the ministers' strong antipathy towards economic and monetary union.

Many more officials refused to discuss the European issue and insisted that inquiries should be made with the candidate direct. But the responses revealed that opposition to the single currency is widespread in the ranks of the Government itself and Conservative Party headquarters.

The leading rebels are:

William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, has written: "If ever a single currency were to be proposed there should be a referendum of the whole country before a final decision was taken." His office in Northallerton, told a reporter: "It's for your personal use? He is not in favour of a single currency."

Michael Forsyth, Scottish Secretary, makes no reference to the single currency in his election address. "Privately opposed to it," according to his staff.

Michael Ancram, Northern Ireland Minister, says in his election address that he "will not support anything which diminishes our sovereignty". Privately, his campaign headquarters, said he "does not want" a single currency to happen". Asked if that meant he opposed the abolition of the pound, the reply was: "You may think that. I could not possibly comment."

Sir Paul Beresford, Environment Minister, declined to reveal the contents of his election address which will be released later this week.

Tim Hall, his agent, speaking on the record to *The Times*, said: "Sir Paul's line is that he does not see any circumstances in the near future where we will join it or where he would vote for it."

Simon Burns, Junior Health Minister, who is defending Chelmsford West, makes no comment about the single currency in his election address. A spokeswoman for his campaign headquarters said: "As a Government Minister he is following the line. He is not one of those Europhiles. In a vote I think you would find he would not support a single currency. He is a Eurosceptic."

Eric Forth, Education and Employment Minister of State, says he "opposes a federal Europe ... [and] any further transfer of powers from Britain to Europe". Unofficial response: "Ask him

Continued on page 2, col 6

Pound reaches a post-ERM high

The pound surged on the foreign exchange yesterday, rising to its highest level against the German mark since its abrupt departure from the exchange-rate mechanism in September 1992.

Shares also rose sharply, with the FTSE 100 index of leading shares closing 35.1 points higher at 4,286.8 .... Page 29

Water companies fear extended tax

Labour is believed to be considering extending its planned windfall tax across the entire water industry despite 20 local companies saying that they have had none of the windfall benefits of privatisation. The companies serve about a quarter of England and Wales .... Page 30

Hundreds killed in pilgrim camp fires

By Christopher Walker
Middle East Correspondent

UP TO 300 people were killed and 800 injured yesterday when fires raged through two pilgrim camps on the way to Mecca.

Witnesses described mass panic as flames licked through the closely pitched white tents, driven by fierce winds.

Huge palls of smoke blacked out the sunlight over a camp in the plains of Mena as the emergency services struggled to cope. Many of the dead — who were mostly Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis — were said to have been crushed in the rush to escape the blaze. Some local reports put the death toll at more than 300, others said that 181 were known to have died.

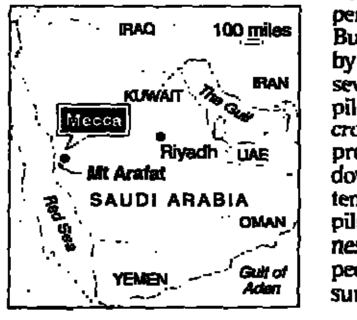
Suzanne Kassem said: "It started off with just small puffs of black smoke. It started spreading in size until the day looked like night. Gas tanks were exploding everywhere like bombs. "People were running around. It was mass hysteria. Everyone was running around like cattle."

The fire broke out as some of the two million people on the annual pilgrimage to Mecca were beginning to move en masse towards Mt Arafat. Some witnesses said that it was caused by a gas canisters used for cooking: others blaming faulty wiring in an air conditioning circuit.

As news of the main fire spread, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported that a second had broken out in the Iranian encampments on Mt Arafat 12 miles southwest of Mecca.

Before the blaze broke out, Saudi television showed pictures of many of the pilgrims in their traditional dress — two simple white sheets for men and long white or black robes plus headscarves for women — carrying umbrellas to protect themselves from the sun as they made the journey to Mena chanting: "I have answered your call, God. There is no one God but you."

The tragedy was a major embarassment for the Saudi authorities, who are the pround guardians of the world's two holiest Islmaic sites at Mecca and Medina and have spent $18.6 billion expanding facilities in Mecca. Shortly before the blaze, Saudi officials claimed that they had been doing their best to ensure a safe Haj for the pilgrims from some 100 countries.

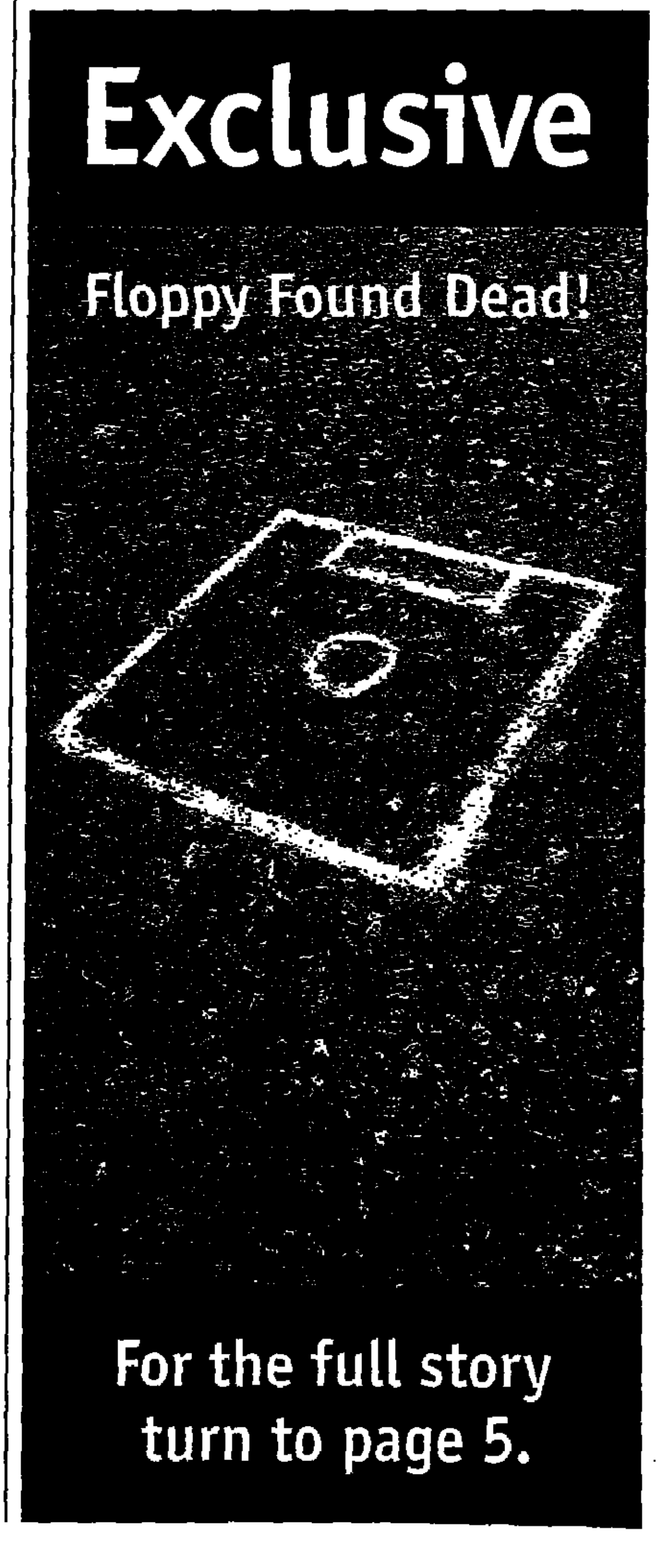


Every able-bodied Muslim who can afford it is obliged to perform the pilgrimage once. But the Haj has been dogged by tragedy. The worst was seven years ago when 1,426 pilgrims died in an overcrowded tunnel at Mena, probably because of a breakdown of the ventilation system. And in 1994, 270 pilgrims, most of them Indonesian were killed in a stampede in Mecca when the crowd surged forward uncontrollably towards a cavern for the ritual of "stoning the devil".

Fire, hostage-taking, political disturbances and bombings have also taken a huge toll. In 1987 402 people, most of them Iranian pilgrims, were killed and 649 wounded in Mecca when Saudi security forces clashed with Iranians staging an illegal anti-US and anti-Israel demonstration.

The most dramatic incident was in 1979 when several hundred armed men hostile to the conservative Saudi government barricaded themselves inside Mecca's Grand Mosque for two weeks, taking pilgrims hostage. Some 153 people were killed and 560 injured in the fighting.

A year later 301 passengers were killed when a Pakistani jet caught fire after a passenger lit a kerosene stove in an aisle to brew tea.



Exclusive
Floppy Found Dead!
For the full story turn to page 5.

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Carey rules out Church blessing for gay 'marriages'

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has made one of his strongest statements on homosexuality, ruling out the possibility of the Church of England sanctioning same-sex relationships among the clergy.

Dr Carey, in the final documentary in the *Archbishop* series, to be broadcast on ITV this Sunday, makes clear that the Church will never bless gay "marriages". He says the Church recognises marriage and celibacy, and nothing in between.

"In the 1980s, the issue of homosexuality was just beginning to emerge as a problem for all the churches. With hindsight we can criticise people of that period," he says. "Now we're in a different ball game, and we are saying very clearly to people in the Church that practising homosexuality is not to be condoned in the priesthood."

He says homosexuals can be ordained, but should live a celibate lifestyle. Challenged by Peter Williams, the series director, on whether this is not like President Clinton saying he smoked marijuana but did not inhale, Dr Carey insists: "Nothing of the sort. Homosexuals are people loved by God, have gifts to offer, but the discipline of the Church has not changed.

"If people think that we're living in limbo now and the Church can't make up its mind, they've got it absolutely wrong. The discipline of the Church is that we recognise two lifestyles. One is marriage and the other is celibacy, and there can't be anything in between, and we don't recognise same-sex marriages."

A spokeswoman said Dr Carey was referring specifically to the priesthood, and was not available for comment about the laity. He has previously made strong statements criticising homophobia. On *Desert Island Discs* in 1995 he said he had no intention of overturning the teaching of the Bible, but added: "With that must go listening to men and women today whose experience may be different from ours. The discussion continues."

PUGH
CAREY: BE EITHER CELIBATE OR MARRIED

"Relax, I'm married"

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Christian Brothers offer public apology to abused pupils

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

■ Cruelty and sexual abuse in Catholic boys' schools was a reflection of Irish society at the time, a religious order has claimed

THE leader of the Christian Brothers, the order that has educated generations of Roman Catholics in Ireland, has apologised to pupils who were abused at school.

Hundreds of former pupils have complained of cruelty and sexual abuse at Christian Brothers schools. Yesterday they received a public apology from Brother Edmund Garvey.

Speaking in Drogheda, Co Louth, as he was made a freeman of the town where he grew up, Brother Edmund said: "People have had negative experiences with the Christian Brothers and schools in the past. I cannot deny that, nor do I want to. For those who did have hurtful experiences, I apologise and ask forgiveness."

Brother Edmund told his audience in Drogheda that the order was determined not to repeat the mistakes of the past. He said that the abuse at Christian Brothers schools was characteristic of Irish society at the time. "Our society was in many ways characterised by harshness, by difficulty, at times by cruelty. I think a lot of people suffered it right across society. I'm sorry to say that at times we reflected some of that harshness and cruelty."

The Christian Brothers, founded in 1820 by Ignatius Rice to educate poor Catholics, were a dominant force in Irish education until the 1960s. The boys-only schools had a reputation for tough discipline. Past pupils include Charles Haughey, the former Taoiseach, Gay Byrne, the broadcaster, and Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein.

One former pupil, who attended a Christian Brothers school in Synge Street, Dublin, in the 1960s, described the harsh regime: "One classmate received 75 slaps of the leather in one day for some minor offence. We recently had a class reunion and his punishment was still the main topic of conversation."

Another former pupil, who attended a school in Newry, Co Down, said that some of the teachers had been sexually frustrated: "There was a suspicion about one brother who made boys take his hands. Some of the brothers were very violent, while others were saints who are still revered by their former pupils." A man aged 27 told RTE radio yesterday that he had been raped after school hours by the principal, who looked after him in the evenings while his parents cared for his sick brother.

Brother Edmund's apology is the latest from a senior member of the Catholic Church since evidence began to emerge of widespread sexual and physical abuse by priests. The problem led indirectly to the downfall of Albert Reynolds's Government in 1994: the Labour Party left the coalition after it was disclosed that there had been a seven-month delay by the Attorney-General's office in issuing extradition warrants for a paedophile priest.

The furore prompted the Catholic Church to announce a code of practice to discourage child abuse. In a statement in 1994 the bishops said: "Children and their families have been hurt and betrayed by abusive behaviour on the part of a priest. They deserve an apology which we unreservedly offer."

Some priests in Ireland have made out-of-court payments to men who claimed that they were abused as children. The Christian Brothers, which has schools in 26 countries, has paid more than £1 million to former pupils allegedly abused outside Ireland. No compensation has been paid in Ireland, although a number of complaints about abuse are being investigated.

A spokesman said that it was the order's policy to co-operate with the authorities in the investigation of cases and to apologise.

Folly at the bottom of Prince's garden enrages architects

BY EMMA WILKINS

A CONFERENCE centre to be built at the bottom of the Prince of Wales's garden in Gloucestershire was condemned by leading designers yesterday as "meaningless, banal and depressing".

The Cotswold stone building, where the Prince will hold charity meetings, combines the worst features of an out-of-town supermarket and a parish hall, architectural experts said. Building work on the Orchard Room, which has the floor space of two tennis courts, will begin later this summer after Cotswold District Council granted planning permission.

The single-storey building, 100 yards from the main Palladian house on the Prince's Highgrove estate, was designed by Charles Morris, a chartered surveyor from Norfolk. Mr Morris, who was not trained as an architect, said the Prince had collaborated closely with him during the design stages.

Paul Finch, editor of *The Architects' Journal*, disliked the building and the ideas behind it. "The unkind description is that it looks like an upmarket Tesco's, although I think that's being unfair to Tesco as some of the things they are doing are quite good. "It's disappointing that the Prince, as a leading public figure, has done very little to promote the best of contemporary design in this country — unlike Prince Albert who did so much. This building is a sort of 'Arts and Crafts' meets parish hall. It's rather depressing."

Graham Cooper, chairman of the Art and Architecture Society, was similarly unimpressed. "This is a banal, depressing design which has more in common with Wimpey homes than anything else. It's a very conservative approach which has not stretched anyone's imagination.

"The Prince and his entourage have entrenched themselves in the past, which shows a sign of lack of confidence. This building should be much smaller. I can understand why some people think it looks like a supermarket."

The Prince, well known for his views on carbuncles and other modern architectural designs, needs the new building because Highgrove is too small for his official receptions. At present guests are accommodated in marquees in the garden.

Mr Morris was recommended by one of the Prince's architectural advisers. Although he is not a trained architect, he has been designing buildings for 25 years. His previous commissions include work for Rosemary Verey, the garden designer.

Mr Morris, who started work in December after a meeting with the Prince at Sandringham, defended his design. "We are not trying to create a museum piece. It is a country building with elegance."

The Orchard Room will have room for 80-100 people for dinner and 200 for less formal receptions. It is equipped with a kitchen and a room for exhibitions of the Prince's watercolours. The cost of the building, estimated at more than £1 million, will be met by the Duchy of Cornwall, from which the Prince rents Highgrove. The new addition will put the rent up, a spokeswoman said.

The Arts and Crafts movement began in the late 19th century as a revival of traditional craftsmanship. Exponents used traditional building materials and techniques.

A model of the design, dubbed "an upmarket Tesco's"

The Prince on a visit to a meat processing factory in Aberdeenshire yesterday

NEWS IN BRIEF

Milk packs help hunt for missing children

Fear of examinations was blamed yesterday for a big rise in calls from teenage runaways to the National Missing Persons Helpline. The charity is to put photographs of missing children on milk cartons in an effort to reunite more families. Four-pint cartons sold by Iceland will give details of a different missing child every three weeks. The first is Patrick Warren, 12, from Birmingham, missing with his friend David Graham Spencer since Boxing Day.

The helpline said that children as young as 11 had called saying that they had left home because of school worries. The charity averages 115 calls a day but has been receiving 140 recently. A spokesman said: "The run-up to exams is a time when young people feel under pressure and go missing. We are expecting the figures to keep on going up. The critical ages are 13, 14 and 15."

'Poverty' gap widening

One in three children now lives in a home with less than half average income after housing costs, which the Child Poverty Action Group describes as "in poverty". Between 1979 and 1993-94 the number of people falling into that category rose from 5 million (9 per cent of the population) to 13.7 million (25 per cent), including 4.2 million children (32 per cent) up from 1.4 million (10 per cent). In a report yesterday the group said government figures showed that real incomes of the bottom 10 per cent fell by 13 per cent. Average incomes rose by 40 per cent and top 10 per cent incomes rose by 65 per cent.

Secrecy 'leads to abuse'

A culture of secrecy in care homes is encouraging abuse of children, the elderly and the disabled, according to a report by the whistleblowers' support charity, Public Concern at Work. Calling for a change in the law to protect whistleblowers, the report cites Frank Beck, the Leicestershire child abuser, Beverly Allitt, the nurse who killed babies, and widespread abuse in North Wales children's homes as examples of cases where staff suspected something was wrong but lacked the courage to report their suspicions.

Insanity no excuse

Insanity is no defence to a charge of drink-driving, the High Court ruled. Two judges said magistrates at Caistor, Lincolnshire, were wrong in law when they acquitted Michael Harper, of Nafferton, East Riding, after hearing that he was suffering from manic depression. He was found by police "talking gibberish" and displaying "a Walter Mitty nature". Overturning the magistrates' decision, the judges said that driving with excess alcohol was a "strict liability" offence, where criminal intent did not have to be proved.

Nurse pushed general

Debbie Blaize, 21, denied punching a retired major-general who accused her of taking his taxi. She told Southwark Crown Court that she had been at the head of the Victoria station queue when the general had racially abused her and grabbed her round the neck. She had sworn at him and pushed him away, then he fell. Stuart McDonald, a property valuer in the same queue, said that she had behaved "very aggressively and shouted abuse". The nursery nurse denies actual bodily harm and the trial continues.

Elizabeth is top girl

Elizabeth Choulerton, 17, has become the first head prefect at King Edward's School, Bath, ending four centuries of male domination at the £4,000-a-year day school, which was founded in 1552. Girls were first allowed in the sixth form in 1986. She holds sway over 45 prefects and eight senior prefects at the 660-pupil senior school. The prefects give out punishments to younger children.

Youth 'killed in revenge'

Danny Westmacott, 16, was stabbed to death after another teenager took revenge for being beaten in a fight in front of girls, a jury at the Old Bailey heard. The catering student died from a single stab wound as he was attacked inside a north London branch of McDonald's. The court was told that the killers singled out their victim in a attack planned almost like an execution. Three teenagers, aged 16, 17 and 19, denied murdering the student in February last year. The case continues.

Buried in wrong plots

The estranged wife of a gravedigger triggered a council investigation after telling families that their relatives had been buried in the wrong plots. Two women buried in Uphall Cemetery, West Lothian, were laid to rest in the wrong graves between 1990 and 1993, the inquiry found. It has also been claimed that cemetery staff tried to cover up their mistakes by switching headstones. Council officials deny the claim but have offered to exhume the bodies and bury them in their correct plots.

Triad spy Marine faces court martial for shooting a rat

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A ROYAL Marine corporal who shot a rat while hiding in dense undergrowth to spy on suspected Triads in Hong Kong's New Territories faced a court martial yesterday for endangering the operation.

Corporal Steven Leech told the hearing at HMS Nelson, Portsmouth, that he shot the nine-inch rat with his 9mm Browning to protect himself and the three soldiers under his command. Lieutenant Commander Mark Emerton, for the prosecution, said that Corporal Leech, 27, had put the operation, in August last year, at risk.

"Leech deliberately and without regard to the safety of his team discharged a round of ammunition and as such neglected his duties as an operations commander," he said. Corporal Leech was on a four-month deployment with a 45 Commando unit at the Royal Navy base at HMS Tamar in Hong Kong. Their mission was to help break a luxury car smuggling ring organised by the Triads who were shipping the stolen vehicles to China.

The special unit, consisting of Corporal Leech, Marine Philip Harris, a radio operator, and two Gurkhas, was working alongside the Hong Kong police and customs and excise officials on the secret operation.

Lieutenant Commander Emerton said: "Leech turned to the radio operator and told him, 'I'm fed up with the rat and I'm going to take it out', and then he fired his gun."

Corporal Leech, from Hull, denied two charges of neglecting to perform his duties as operations commander and failing to report that he had deliberately discharged one live round of 9mm ammunition. The fact he had shot a rat was removed from the charge after two hours of legal argument.

The court martial continues today.

Corporal Steven Leech: led spying mission

Jurors recall trauma of murder trial evidence

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

JURORS who took part in horrific murder trials will tell tonight how they were haunted for months by the harrowing evidence they heard.

The men and women, who took part in trials including that of Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, and involving the bludgeoning of a toddler and the violent murder of a mother, describe in a BBC documentary how evidence preyed on their minds, saying that it was exacerbated because they were forbidden to talk about what they heard and saw. One tells how all 12 people sobbed in the jury room and comforted one another after returning a guilty verdict.

The jurors, some of the quarter of a million people summoned annually, cast light for the first time on the impact of such trials. In the programme, *Modern Times: Jurors*, David, who sat on a five-week trial in which a newly married couple were shot, says of the guilty verdict: "This was the bit they couldn't cope with ... we went into the jurors' room again and everybody was sitting there sobbing ... we were actually in that room for an hour before we could leave the court."

Jenny, who served for nine days in a case where a defendant was accused of murdering a mother of two by slashing her throat, said: "I turned up on the first day a happy, confident, level-headed, outgoing sort of person and within about ten days I'd turned into a complete nervous wreck too frightened to open her own front door."

As jurors had to look at forensic science evidence, she added: "That was really when the reality of it all hit me, and I realised that some, someone had really died, that nothing we could do, whatever the outcome was, it wasn't going to bring her back and it really preyed on my mind."

David said: "To actually deal with a murder case and to go through all the emotions that go with that murder case, it's too much." In the trial jurors had to listen to the tape of the wife trying to speak after she had been shot. "It was like your worst nightmare," he recalled.

Ann, who sat on a case in which a 17-year-old had strangled a three-year-old boy and beaten him to death with a golf club, says: "The judge warned us the night before that we would need to look at photos that would distress us and I did lose sleep over that ... it's horrible to have to think that somebody had done that to a child."

Maggie says of the Strangeways Riot trial: "It took over my life. One munute you know I'm mopping the kitchen floor and pegging the washing out and the next day I'm sat in the jury box on one of the largest trials in the North West for years and years."

At one stage the defendants said they "would find out where our families lived and we'd be sorry, they'd blow their legs off, a few more choice flowery words in between of course but that was quite frightening".

Since the Rosemary West trial in November 1995, the Lord Chancellor's Department has made court welfare officers available to counsel jurors if necessary.

'Guilty' call is premature

A juror listening to a drugs case yesterday said to the defendant: "Why don't you plead guilty — you are guilty." The juror, Shane Smyth, 32, of Stevenage, Hertfordshire, was brought before Judge Wilkie QC at Luton Crown Court who, before ordering a retrial, told him he had wasted much public money. Mr Smyth told the judge: "The evidence was overwhelming. It was an insult to my intelligence for him to plead not guilty."

Ministers

Continued from page 1

and he will tell you: he does not support a single currency."

Roger Knapman, government whip, says: "Opposed the treaty of European Union [Maastricht treaty and voted for a referendum on it which is why no Referendum Party candidate is standing in the constituency]. Believes in a Common Market to promote our future prosperity. Will oppose any further erosion of our national sovereignty."

Robbie Lester, the party agent, said: "Unofficaly having voted against Maastricht 45 times he would rather resign than support a single currency. He is absolutely opposed. I hope you are not a reporter?"

John Watts, the Transport Minister standing in Reading East, has not yet sent out his election address. But he said last night: "I am totally opposed to a fudged single currency and it's the only one on offer.

"My New Year's message to my association was that this election was the second Battle for Britain. In 1940 we were threatened by a foreign power and now its the federal tendencies of our partners."

Gwilym Jones, junior Welsh Minister, in his election address says: "I say 'No' to a federal Europe."

There is no mention of his views on a single currency, but privately his office claims he is an original Euro-sceptic and voted against entry to Europe in 1975.

"Draw your own conclusions," said an official.

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Nurse 'used insulin to kill partner for his cash'

By Kathryn Knight

A NURSE murdered her common-law husband by injecting him with insulin so she could inherit his property and marry her lover, a court was told yesterday.

Marie Whiston, 52, twice tried to murder 60-year-old Eric Lloyd by injecting him with a massive overdose, and on the third occasion she succeeded and "almost got away with it", Birmingham Crown Court was told.

Mrs Whiston, who denies murder, had joked with colleagues about the case of Beverly Allitt, the nurse who killed four children, and had told her first husband she could "do away with him" quite easily using insulin and that nobody would be any the wiser, it was alleged.

Anthony Barker, QC, for the prosecution, said that Mr Lloyd was a lonely man of whom Mrs Whiston had taken advantage when they began a relationship in 1990. The couple had bought a house together in Bordesley Green, Birmingham, but two years later Mrs Whiston started a relationship with another man, Rod Beatty.

Mr Lloyd, who was unaware of the affair, had made a will signing the property over to her. "She was a cold-hearted woman who treated him poorly and was unfaithful and deceitful to him. She had another man and she wanted to inherit what money he [Mr Lloyd] had and go on her way," Mr Barker said.

The jury of eight men and four women was told that Mrs Whiston worked at Heartlands Hospital, moving to East Birmingham Hospital at the time of the alleged killing. On the morning of June 11, 1994, she had called a GP to the house and told him she had found her husband dead when she returned from her nightshift. However, the prosecution alleged that she had spent the night with her lover.

Mr Beatty saw her later that day and she did not appear upset, Mr Barker said. "She said she would have to act upset in front of people who knew her and Eric."

After a first post-mortem examination a urine sample showed that the insulin levels in his blood were five times the normal level, so they "stuck out like a sore thumb".

Mrs Whiston had tried to suggest Mr Lloyd had committed suicide, despite there being no bottles of pills near the body, it was said.

Mr Lloyd had already been admitted to hospital twice in August and September 1991 with low blood-sugar levels. "Someone, on two occasions in 1991, had injected this man with insulin so as to cause him to collapse," Mr Barker said. "She made two failed attempts to kill him by injecting him with insulin and on the third attempt she gave him a cocktail of drugs to perhaps make him drowsy and indeed she almost got away with it."

Robert Whiston, who married her in 1973 but separated from her in 1988, told the court that his wife had threatened him with a similar fate. "She said it is quite easy. Insulin can be absorbed into the blood stream and no-one will know it's been there."

The trial continues.

Stella McCartney: "It's mad after being out of college a year and a half"

French decide a new McCartney is in fashion

By Grace Bradberry
Style Editor

Fashion show from her last college year

SIR Paul McCartney's daughter Stella was appointed chief designer at the French fashion house Chloe yesterday, succeeding Karl Lagerfeld.

The announcement took the fashion world by surprise. McCartney, 25, who graduated from Central St Martin's College of Fashion in September 1995, has designed just three commercial collections. She said: "It's mad after being out of college for a year and a half. I wasn't even aware they were looking for a new designer."

McCartney is the third Briton to be appointed to a big French fashion house in less than a year. Last October it was announced that John Galliano, 36, would move to Christian Dior and that Alexander McQueen, 28, would head Givenchy.

McCartney was unaware that Mounir Moufarrige, Chloe's president, had seen two of her collections: "He came to the showroom, but I didn't know where he was from."

M Moufarrige said: "Talent was the thing. Is there an age for that? You either have talent or you don't, you either have creativity or you don't. I think she will surprise us all very positively."

McCartney's willingness to give up her own label collection — Galliano and McQueen retain theirs — also appears to have swung the balance. He said: "We wanted a designer who would be exclusive, full-time, and develop the product."

Lagerfeld, now 58, was at a creative peak when he designed for Chloe in the 1970s. He left in 1983, but returned in 1992. In March he announced that he was stepping down to concentrate on his collections for Chanel and his own label. McCartney went to work for Christian Lacroix in Paris at the age of 15. She graduated from St Martins amid a blaze of publicity, with Naomi Campbell and Kate Moss — both friends — modelling in her end-of-year show.

After a stint with a Savile Row tailor she launched her own collection, based on vintage and antique clothing. Although the name has undoubtedly helped, fashion insiders are insistent that she has real talent. Lisa Armstrong, the fashion features director of *Vogue*, said: "Chloe has been a feminine, bohemian, hippy deluxe label. Stella does very pretty clothes with a Notting Hill bohemian feel. There's a whole youth quake going on."

Sir Paul said: "It is a big job, but I am sure she's more than equal to the task. All of her family are very proud of her."

Style, page 20

Son made 'ghost' calls to get money out of mother

By Robin Young

AN AVARICIOUS son pretended to be the ghost of his dead father to get his hands on the family fortune, a court was told yesterday. John McKenna, 41, made eerie wailing noises down the telephone to his stepmother in an attempt to terrify her.

The widow, Freda McKenna, 62, then had a call impersonating the voice of her late husband intoning: "It's Louis here. When are you going to carry out my wishes?"

Magistrates heard that there was a bitter family dispute after Louis McKenna died 18 months ago. His widow was left the "lion's share" of his £60,000 estate.

David Martin, for the prosecution, said: "Mr McKenna left a third of his estate to his wife. Two ninths were left to their daughter, with the four children from his first marriage, including the defendant, each getting a ninth. As a result a dispute arose between Mrs McKenna and her four stepchildren."

Mr Martin said Mrs McKenna received a number of telephone calls at her home in Buckley, Clwyd. He said: "In one of the calls she could hear a ghostly wailing sound in the background. She recognised it as the voice of her stepson."

Mrs McKenna told the court: "I was very, very upset. My husband had only died about four months earlier and I was still in shock."

Magistrates at Mold were told that the voice claiming to be the late Mr McKenna belonged to a "mystery man" whom the son refused to name to police. The calls to Mrs McKenna were traced to her stepson's mobile phone.

McKenna, of Buckley, was found guilty of making nuisance calls, given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £75 costs.

Suspected rapist slips Old Bailey security net

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

A MAN accused of rape escaped from the Old Bailey yesterday, diving through a locked glass window after evading armed police patrols, closed-circuit television cameras and other sophisticated technology.

The 20-year-old man slipped from the cell where he was waiting to be called for trial. He had been taken to the court building yesterday morning on a bench warrant after having failed to appear in February for a pre-trial hearing.

It is believed he had been in the cell area when he found himself near a door leading to one of the older ground-floor courts.

When challenged by a probation officer, he is understood to have run through an office and hurled himself through a locked window into Newgate Street, where he made his getaway.

Only one other accused has escaped from the premier court in the English criminal justice system in recent memory.

Security is currently at a very high level because of the trial of eight men accused of plotting an IRA attack on London's electricity supply, but it appeared yesterday that someone forgot to close the door of the escaper's cell after a legal visit.

Mormon bishop 'assaulted six women believers'

By Russell Jenkins

SIX women worshippers were sexually assaulted over 21 years by a Mormon bishop whom they were urged to regard as a father figure, a court was told yesterday.

Peter Gibson, 72, would regularly molest members of his Liverpool chapel and occasionally attempt to stuff money into their underwear, it was claimed. A 20-year-old woman was invited into his bedroom on the pretext of looking at his "*Sound of Music* bed", a reference to its use as a prop in an amateur musical production, Liverpool Crown Court was told.

When detectives confronted Gibson about the allegations, he said that had been merely expressing his love and concern for the women in his flock. Gibson, of Roby, Liverpool, Merseyside, denies 25 charges of indecent assault spanning 21 years to December 1994. Some of the charges are specimen charges relating to systematic abuse.

Gibson: said he was expressing his love

Six of the alleged victims, aged 17 to 42, had been baptised into the Mormon faith. A seventh was aged just eight when he started to indecently assault her, it was claimed.

Mark Brown, prosecuting, told the court that Gibson, a married man, joined the Utah-based Church of the Latter Day Saints in about 1957, and attended the Mill Bank Chapel, Stoneycroft, Liverpool.

He would put his arm around female parishioners, brazenly squeezing their breasts, often in the presence of others. Mr Brown said that Gibson touched the breasts of one of the women and the young girl when she was 12, and tucked a £5 note into their bras afterwards.

He was said to have assaulted two women during interviews at his chapel office. With one, he moved his hands up her thighs, kissed her on the mouth, and pressed his body against her. Mr Brown said: "She did not know what to do. She decided to ignore it and keep away from Mr Gibson. She didn't think if she complained that anyone would listen." The trial continues.

School up before the beak after pet duck nearly dies

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

POLLY the primary school pet was almost a dead duck when the cleaner who was looking after her went on holiday. Magistrates in Bracknell, Berkshire, were told yesterday how the bird was found without food or clean water in the middle of the summer break.

Rita Cassese, who has since resigned from The Pines Infant School in Bracknell, admitted causing unnecessary suffering to a domestic duck. She was given a conditional discharge and ordered to pay £100 costs. The school governors were in emergency session last night after the presiding magistrate said the school should keep no more pets unless it could look after them properly.

Liz Wheeler, RSPCA inspector called to The Pines last August, said: "We were told that the duck was part of the children's curriculum. The only education they would have got from her is how to neglect a duck."

Polly has since been found a good home after being nursed back to health by RSPCA officials. But 13 days into last summer's holiday she was deserted and "significantly underweight".

Philip Day, prosecuting for the RSPCA, showed magistrates a video of the area near the back of the school building where the cross-bred bird had its pen. The film showed numerous rotting eggs and a dead wood pigeon covered in maggots and floating in a pond.

Mr Day said that 54-year-old Cassese, of Dryden, Bracknell, had agreed to feed the duck as usual over the summer holiday, although she was not paid to do so and it was not part of her job specification. "The prosecution case is that she did not and that she just ignored it."

Michael Davies, for the defence, said that the duck had probably been underfed for considerably longer than the two weeks of summer holiday before the RSPCA raid.

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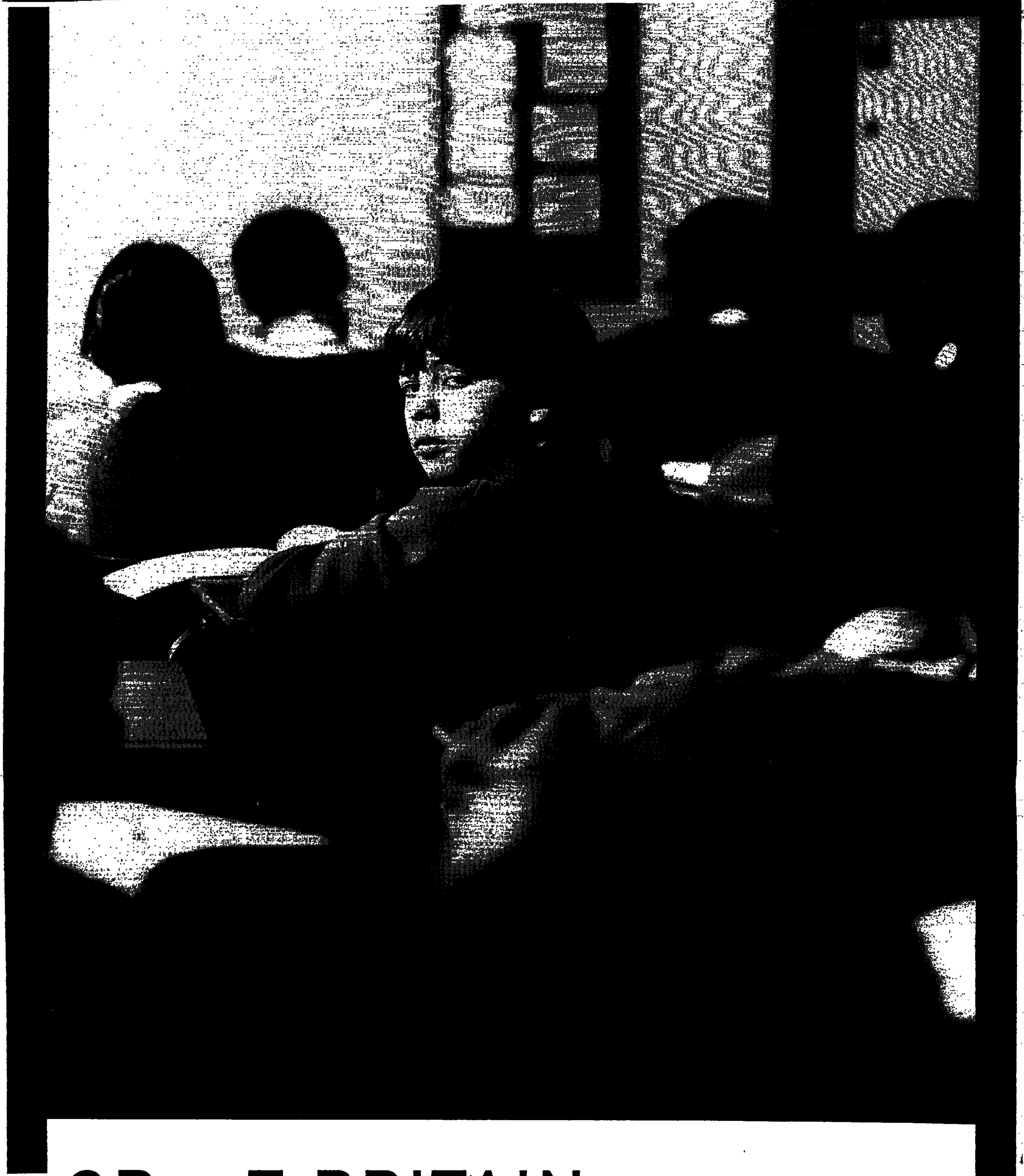

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DISCUSS.

This is the statistic John Major didn't want you to see. The World Education League judges countries on how their education system meets the needs of a competitive economy. It shows that Britain's children are not being educated to the standards of other countries. Currently we lag behind Taiwan, The Philippines and Columbia. Government underfunding has led to teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms, and thousands of children sharing books. No wonder more than 48,000 children failed to pass a single GCSE exam in 1996. Britain deserves better. If these statistics make you cross, you know where to put that cross on polling day.

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Shy Cantona misses his elevation to Renaissance Man

By Russell Jenkins

ERIC CANTONA refused yesterday to be photographed under a giant canvas depicting him as a Christ-like figure. The enigmatic Manchester United footballer was behaving to type as he dodged photographers at the official unveiling of the oil portrait at the Manchester City Art Gallery.

The painting owes much to two works of the Italian Renaissance. Cantona and an array of dozing team-mates are taken from Piero della Francesca's *Resurrection of Christ*, of 1459, showing Christ emerging from the tomb. The background is taken from a painting by Andrea Mantegna showing Julius Caesar's triumphant return to Rome after his foreign victories. In place of Caesar sits Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, on an elaborate chariot, holding a palm as a traditional symbol of victory. Behind him is John Curtis, the youth team coach. As Roman soldiers beneath Cantona are Phil Neville, David Beckham, Nicky Butt and Gary Neville.

Whether Cantona was embarrassed to be portrayed as a modern-day Christ, complete with the banner of the Resurrection, or was simply too shy, he was not letting on. He certainly likes the painting, called *The Art of the Game*, by the Manchester artist Michael Browne, 34. He agreed to pose for photographs after meeting the artist at a city centre restaurant; he collaborated on the project and has bought it at a price believed to be between £50,000 to £100,000.

The painting will hang in the City Art Gallery for several weeks before heading for an unknown destination. The artist said it was not destined to be hung at the house Cantona rents from the Chelsea striker Mark Hughes at Prestbury, Cheshire.

Browne: influenced by Renaissance paintings

Mr Ferguson brought tens of millions of pounds worth of footballing talent with him to the unveiling, but he still had to apologise for the absent Cantona. "Eric did not want to be photographed with it," he said. "He thinks it is a private arrangement and he wants to adhere to that. So you'll have to make do with myself and the other players. I am delighted to be here with my young players, who are slightly embarrassed to see their faces painted in such magnitude."

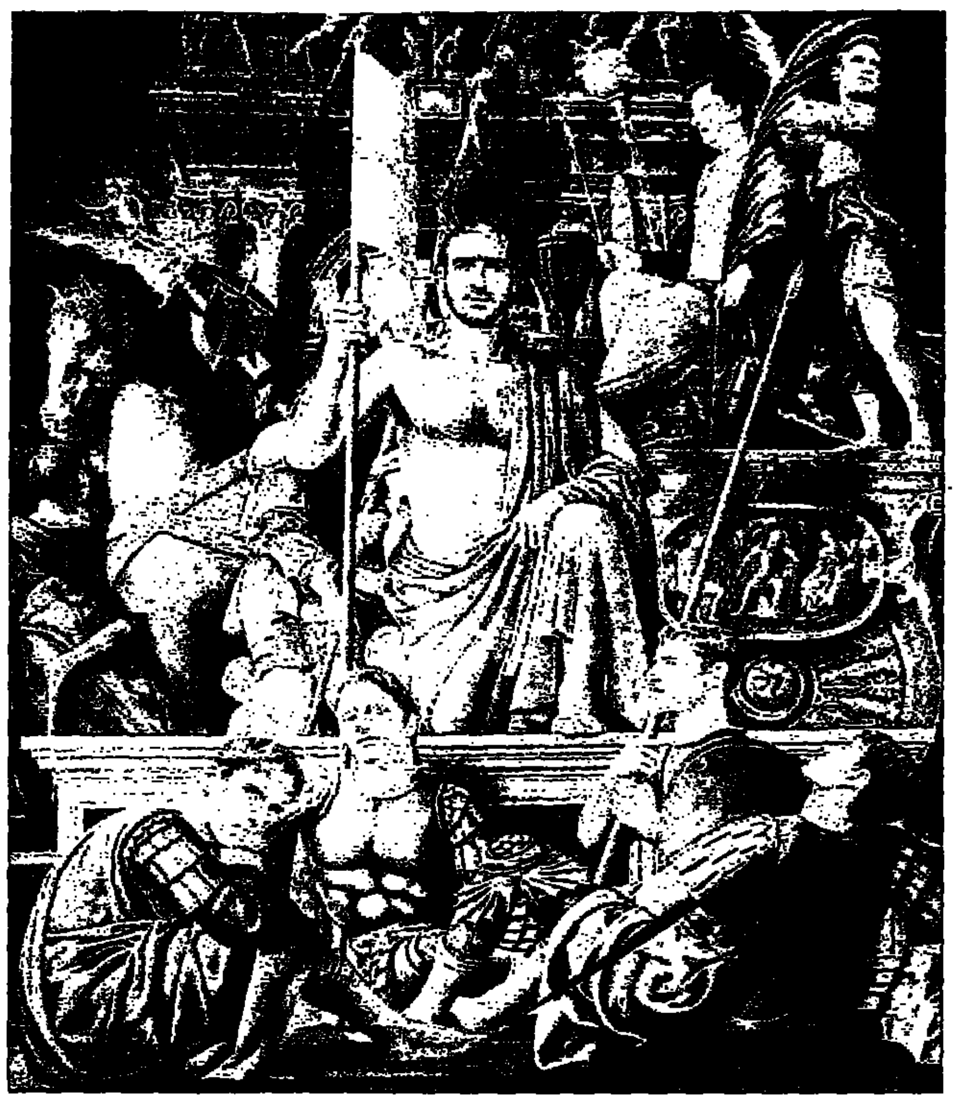
The artist, who once painted a detail of the Sistine Chapel on the ceiling of a Manchester restaurant, said he was not presenting Cantona as a Christ figure. It was more a comment on the modern nature of heroes.

Browne said the painting was his idea, but he had found Cantona enthusiastic. He took photographs of the player, rather than asking him to pose. "He said he likes this kind of art. The painting is a way of reflecting heroes of today in the grand way it was done in the past."

Mr Ferguson, looking slightly bemused to have fallen among art critics, suggested that the Resurrection was Cantona's triumphant battle over his dark side after kicking a spectator in the terraces. "I don't feel uncomfortable with it. The guy has dedicated himself for a whole year to do this and I think it is a great job of work. The theme is that supporters can look on footballers as their idols ... It is a modern image of football."

Gary Neville, shown on the far right of the group at Cantona's feet, said: "If there is any criticism, people are looking too much into it. It is just a painting."

The Bishop of Manchester, the Right Rev Christopher Mayfield, said he did not find the painting offensive. "This is a humorous painting which should be taken at face value."



A Christ-like Eric Cantona, surrounded by his manager and team-mates

Greek heroes did not decline to conjugate with the barbarians

By Philip Howard

RACE and sex are hot modern topics in classical studies. Yesterday the Classical Association conference at the Royal Holloway College, London, discussed kissing the barbarian.

Did ancient Greeks intermarry with foreigners? If they were like their modern descendants, this seems certain. The ancient patriotic and xenophobic foundation myths are against it, but modern scholarship thinks otherwise.

Greeks colonised southern Italy and Sicily from the 8th century BC, forced west by poverty and overcrowding on their barren homeland. From their graves, archaeologists are now beginning to work out what they were like.

Tamar Hodos of Keble College, Oxford, has been examining the *fibulae* of brooches used to fasten women's robes in front. And the *fibulae* — buried with their owners — come from mainland Italy, not Greece. The colonists imported many other crafts from home, but not these brooches. There was an old common market in metalworking between Italy and Sicily. So the presence of these Italian brooches suggests that Greek men were sleeping with the enemy. In their new world, the colonists found wives and the brooches came with them.

Another old foundation myth has the colonists killing the natives and taking their women. So runs the story of Rome and the Sabine women. But did the founders of Miletus really kill the local men to marry their women? Herodotus said so.

Alan Greaves, from Leeds University, discussed the latest evidence from Turkey. It indicates a strong native presence from the beginning at Miletus. And when Miletus founded its own colonies on the Black Sea, women played a prominent part in the adventure. They were highly valued as colonists. The legendary method of getting wives was not used then.

The war between the sexes was fought 28 centuries ago as now. Underneath the rhetoric and myths, the enemies still jumped into bed together. They still do.

Small firms pay price for crime

THE high cost of crime is putting at risk the future of many corner shops, restaurants and small factories, a crime prevention group says today (Stewart Tendler writes). Crime Concern estimates that burglary, robbery and violence now cost small businesses £3.2 billion a year.

The group's research, based on a survey of 1,000 businesses in Leicester, suggests that small businesses are more at risk than homes and that 75 per cent of small businesses experience crime each year.

A business that had been attacked once could expect four more crimes in that year. Repeated attacks and losses put many at risk, says Crime Concern. Two thirds of small firms were one-man companies, which were very susceptible to market pressures.

CORRECTION

Silver being sold at Sotheby's in May and June is from the private homes of the Earls of Warwick and not, as a headline wrongly suggested yesterday, from Warwick Castle, owned by the Tussauds Group.

What happens when your daughter brings her new boyfriend home for the weekend?

Does he go in the spare bedroom, or do they sleep together?

Find out in Weekend

Saturday in THE TIMES

Art of flattery has a noble history

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

SINCE the time of the Pharaohs, men and women who could never be described as oil paintings have commissioned portraits that flatter their vanity.

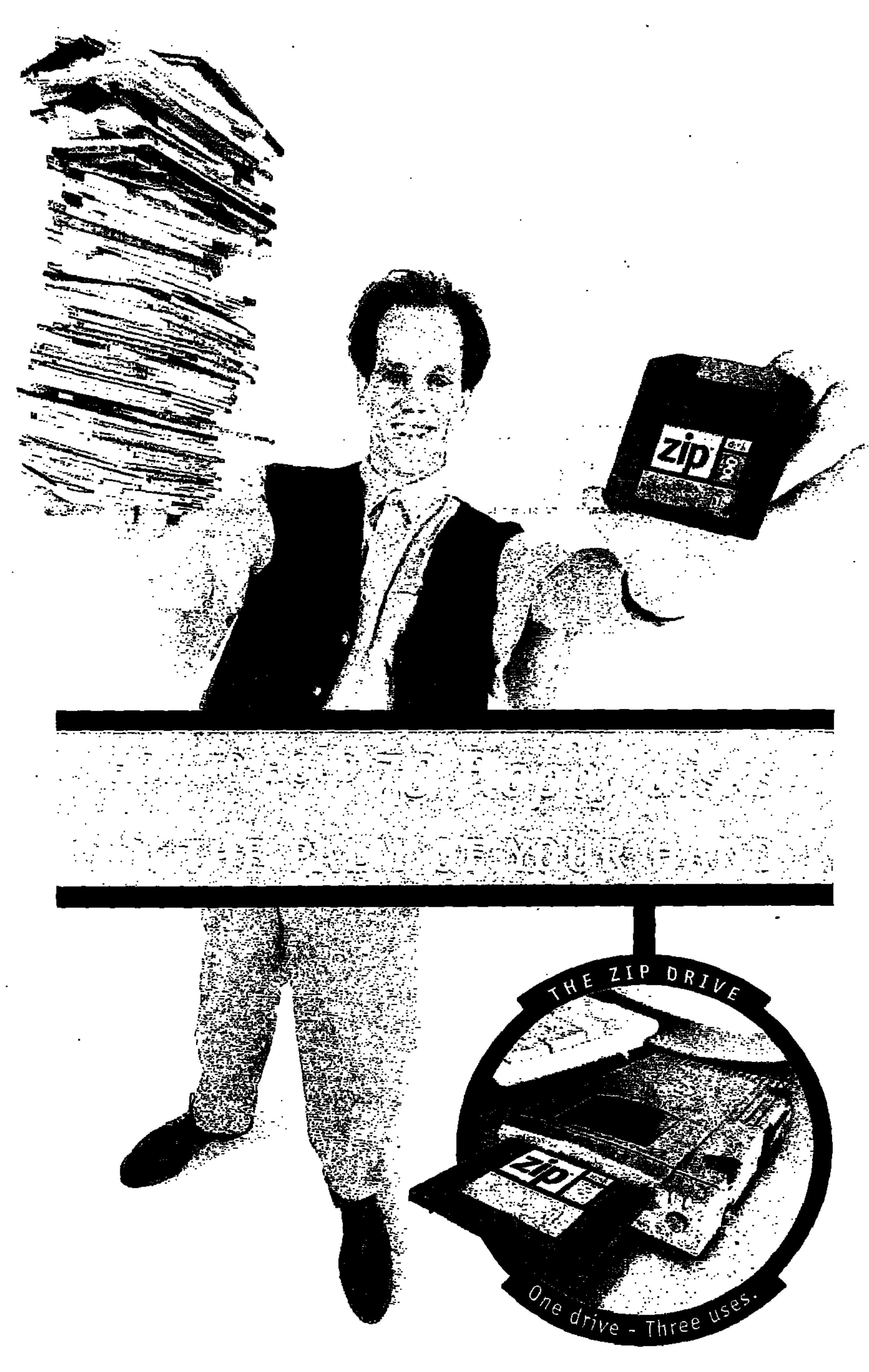
Few, however, want anything approaching the deified image of Eric Cantona. Most request only a good likeness and an informal pose. "But they want posterity to remember them at their best," said Daphne Todd, president of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters. "Unless you flatter them, they are quite worried by the result. We all see ourselves as 20 years younger than we are."

While Cantona's depiction on canvas is unusual, it is not unique. The actor Stephen Fry had his portrait painted by Maggi Hambling in the image of his hero, Oscar Wilde. Ms Todd, noting how the tradition extended back over centuries, said: "Reynolds did it all the time. It was the vogue for members of the aristocracy to be portrayed as shepherdesses and goddesses. He had a pattern book. People could choose the scene they wished."

She recalled painting a scientist who was in her late forties: "She had been a bunny girl and saw herself as a *femme fatale*. She felt that I'd made her look like her mother. I knew her as an academic, but she really wanted to be alluring and desirable."

Elizabeth I would have understood. She insisted that her age never showed in her portraits. Accordingly, her pockmarked face was unblemished on canvas. Oliver Cromwell was different: he ordered that his portrait should not flatter him. The artist was told to include "all these ... pimples, warts and everything as you see me; otherwise I never will pay a farthing for it".

People pay an average of £10,000 a portrait, but prices range from £3,000 to more than £30,000. The most outrageous portraits have generally been unsolicited and found little favour with their sitters. The Queen declined Michael Burke's portrait of her and the Queen Mother astride a motorbike; and Edwina Currie was unimpressed by his portrait of her in stockings and suspenders, holding a whip.



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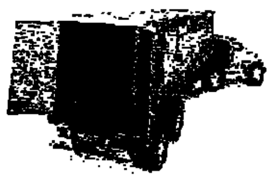

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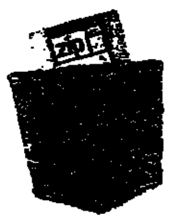

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BECAUSE IT'S

Girl, 6, puts cancer behind her with reverse leg surgery

By Paul Wilkinson

SURGEONS have saved the life of a six-year-old girl with a rare operation that involved turning her leg back to front.

Sarah Dowson faced a painful and early death after doctors found a malignant cancer developing in her left thigh. The operation, known as a rotation plasty, involved cutting out the afflicted bone and rebuilding the leg, using the lower part to replace the thigh, and turning the leg through 180 degrees. Her ankle is now her knee and her calf muscle is her thigh.

Doctors fitted an artificial lower limb so that Sarah could walk again; she has already thrown away the stick she used to get about the family home in Peterlee, Co Durham. Janet Dowson, her mother, said yesterday: "She says she wants to be a normal little girl and normal little girls don't use sticks."

She added: "We are amazed by what they have done. If they had not been able to pioneer this surgery it would have meant losing her whole leg and having a big strap-on replacement.

"Sarah has been incredibly brave. Sometimes the courage she has shown amazes me; her outlook on life is always full of hope. She can be an inspiration to other children who are ill because of the way she has coped at such a young age."

Sarah: she has thrown away her walking stick

The operation, which lasted almost eight hours, was carried out by a team of surgeons led by Joe Pooley at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne. Mr Pooley cut away the girl's diseased thigh bone to below her knee, leaving her calf still attached to the nerves and blood vessels above. He then turned the bottom part of the leg so that her foot was facing backwards and grafted it back below the hip so that the ankle was where the knee should be. Her foot is still in place, tucked into the top of the false lower leg which enables her to move the bottom half of her leg in a normal walking motion.

The operation was performed on August 27 after a series of bone scans, a small operation to determine the size of the tumour, and chemotherapy. Mrs Dowson said: "She is recovering brilliantly, though she still needs regular checks and goes to hospital once a month for X-rays.

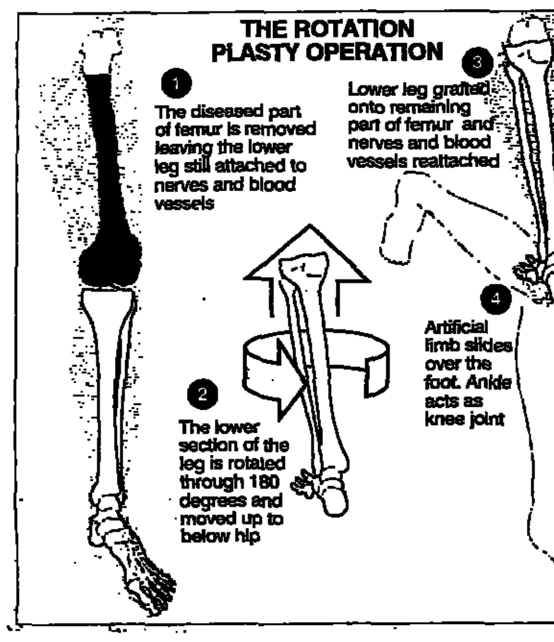
"We thought after it was over we would be given the all-clear, but they can't guarantee it won't come back. Some days she gets depressed and says she wants her own leg back, but usually she copes very well.

"It is her seventh birthday on Sunday and we are having a big birthday party for her. It has been quite a year for her and quite an ordeal, so it will be a special day because she deserves it."

Mr Pooley said that the rotation technique was rarely used in Britain and that Sarah's tumour was more often seen in people aged between 10 and 20. He said there was only one realistic alternative to the complex operation, which was to amputate her leg at the thigh and replace it with a larger false limb, but that would have meant Sarah having to learn to walk again.

Mr Pooley said: "The good thing about rotation is that patients don't feel as though they have lost a limb. Patients like Sarah are a shining example of what can be achieved with this process. Her family were absolutely brilliant; they have made Sarah feel a very special little girl."

Mrs Dowson, 33, and her husband, Ray, 37, a furniture factory worker, have three other children, Raymond, 13, Rebecca, 12, and Adam, 8. Earlier this year 50 regulars at Buzz nightclub in Hartlepool had a sponsored headshave to raise money for the Sargent Cancer Fund for Children in Sarah's honour, and in August she will be the first mascot at Sunderland Football Club's new stadium.


THE ROTATION PLASTY OPERATION
1 The diseased part of femur is removed leaving the lower leg still attached to nerves and blood vessels
2 The lower section of the leg is rotated through 180 degrees and moved up to below hip
3 Lower leg grafted onto remaining part of femur and nerves and blood vessels reattached
4 Artificial limb slides over the foot. Ankle acts as knee joint

NARELLE AUTIO

Chris Moon waves across the desert in the searing heat. He said: "This shows that the only limits we have are those we put on ourselves"

Tears of joy for Sahara runner who showed how to win in 283rd place

*A disabled Briton has completed the world's toughest race. **Matthew Benns** followed his progress across Morocco*

RUNNERS resting at the finish line cried when they saw him approaching. Chris Moon, who lost his right arm and leg in a landmine blast two years ago, had completed a 143-mile Sahara marathon. Every agonising step defied the doctors who told him he would never run again.

He carried a Union Jack streaming behind him from his rucksack for the final steps of the world's toughest foot race. The British team captain, Chris Hutchison, said: "What a sight. It brought tears to my eyes."

Mr Moon said: "I was told that it wasn't possible to get this far on a false limb. To me, this shows that the only limits we have are those we put on ourselves."

The former soldier, wounded in Mozambique while mine-clearing, was 283rd out of 343 finishers in the Marathon des Sables, with a total time of 47 hours, 46 minutes. But as the other exhausted, blistered runners applauded him at the finishing line, his position didn't matter. He had won anyway.

He entered the marathon, in Morocco, to raise £100,000 for an International Committee of the Red Cross false-limb programme in Vietnam. From the start, Mr Moon, 34, said: "Failure is not an option for me. Every step I take helps raise money to help other mine victims and beats my own disability. It also pushes back the barriers of what is possible for people with false limbs."

By day three, in the dune section of the seven-day event, ten of the 358 runners had dropped out. Another five would quit before the finish. Scores more were rehydrated with saline drips and none had a foot without blisters. The dunes were up to 200 metres high and temperatures reached 40C.

Many runners were forced to their knees in despair, the weight of their packs also bringing up blisters on their backs. Mary Gadams, the American who came second in the womens' section last year, sat in the sand and cried. She pulled out of the race.

An exhausted Mr Moon cooked himself a survival pack meal on the tiny stove in his rucksack, slept on the sand and rested for the next stage, a 50-mile yomp. He said: "My biggest fear has been my stump shredding in the sand, but I have overcome that by stopping and massaging it every hour or so."

He finished the yomp after 21 hours, at 5.30 in the morning, with a whoop that woke the entire camp. He said: "Each day the desert surface is different, and I am having to learn how to walk on it before I can get going. But when you look around you, the desert is beautiful. We ran across a dry lake bed that seemed to shimmer so it looked as though you were just walking into infinity."

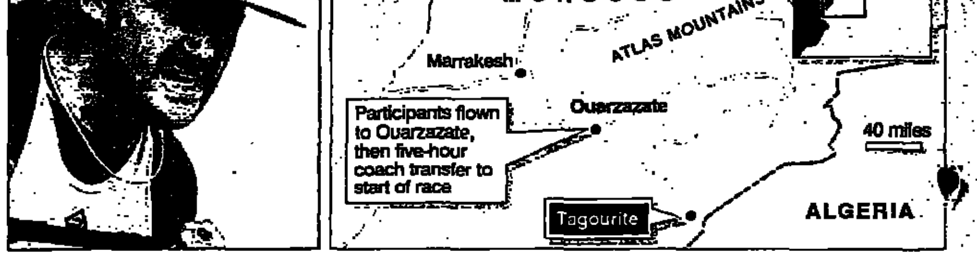
In Britain, runners were preparing for the London Marathon, which Mr Moon ran last year. In the Sahara, contestants were getting ready to run the same distance over rocks. Mr Moon's left foot was covered with blisters, and there was one the size of a 50p piece on his stump, which swelled and shrank with the heat.

The former Royal Marine police officer made a joke about a former schoolfriend, the actor Ralph Fiennes: "Look at Ralph Fiennes in *The English Patient* when he comes in saying he has walked for three days in the desert. What a wimp — only three days."

Organiser Patrick Bauer said: "Chris is an extraordinary man. He is running for everyone who has disabilities like him. He is very fit, but he is really doing this race on sheer willpower."

On the seventh and final day, he completed a 13-mile dash to cross the finishing line. The fastest competitor had been Lahcen Ahansal, from Morocco, with 17 hours 19 minutes. The fastest Briton was Laurence Williams, of the Royal Engineers, in twenty-sixth place with 23 hours 28 minutes.

☐ Donations can be made through the British Red Cross on 0345 315315.



Mr Moon and the desert heartland of Morocco. The race is centred on Tagourite

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Sheep farmers urged to save endangered grouse

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

INTENSIVE sheep farming is pushing the black grouse in England and Wales towards extinction, scientists and conservationists said yesterday as they launched a ten-year scheme to reverse the bird's rapid decline.

Artificial winter feeding of sheep and sharp increases in the numbers of lambs being born on the moors, encouraged by agriculture subsidies, are destroying the heather moorland habitat on which the grouse thrive. Numbers in the Pennines, the birds' last home in England, have halved in the past seven to eight years to around 500 males; the annual decrease is running at 10 per cent.

Sheep farmers and landowners are paid about £25 for every sheep they take off the moor under a so-called agri-environment Moorland Scheme. But the Ministry of Agriculture pays them nearly 30 per cent more, or up to £35 per sheep, to keep them there.

Dr David Baines, of the Game Conservancy Trust, said: "The percentage of lambs is going up. There is also a lot more feeding of sheep on the hill in winter. This causes problems. It concentrates sheep into particular areas, usually the edge of the moorland, where the black grouse like to live. And when the sheep have eaten the supplementary food they eat the heather." Black grouse need young, nutritious heather tips to survive.

Under the North Pennine Grouse Recovery Project, the trust, English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisers, the Ministry of Defence, which owns land in the Pennines used as shooting ranges, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds are setting up a number of demonstration conservation areas. They are being centred on MoD ranges at Catterick, Otterburn and Warcop, as well as at an RAF range at Spadeadam. Landowners and tenant farmers are to be asked to forgo agricultural payments for sheep in favour of heather conservation grants. Dr Baines said the first aim was to halt the decline and then double numbers to 1,000 males over ten years.

Black grouse: males are down to 500

John Barrett, senior conservation officer with English Nature's Northumbria team, said: "The black grouse is a species which is an excellent indicator of habitat quality. Its decline in numbers and distribution in the North of England is a clear indication that not is all well with black grouse habitat."

☐ Campaigners on the South Downs, where a farmer started to plough a site of special scientific interest to plant flax, lobbied Tony Blair at Sussex University yesterday, urging him, if Labour won the election, to end subsidy anomalies that favour farmers over wildlife.

Pony joins growing legion of rare breeds

By Michael Hornsby

A RARE pony found only in the British Isles is being singled out by conservationists to win more public support for breeding programmes to save native livestock from extinction.

The Eriskay pony, originally from the Western Isles, is down to a hundred breeding mares and has joined nearly 60 other types of cattle, sheep, pigs, horses, goats and poultry under the protection of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

Lawrence Alderson, director of the trust, said: "It is vital that we maintain the genetic diversity of our domesticated animals. It is a sad fact that many of our native livestock are now rare."

At a press conference yesterday in the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace, the trust, a charity founded in 1973, launched a recruitment drive aimed at increasing membership from 9,000 to 25,000 by the year 2000.

Since 1900 more than 20 breeds of British farm animals have become extinct.

Feather test for poachers

FEATHERS are being collected from birds of prey to convict poachers who trade in them illegally. The feathers will be used to create a DNA database which can identify whether the birds have been bred in captivity or taken from the wild.

The DNA genetic fingerprint is singular to each bird and can also indicate its parentage, enabling police and other agencies to determine its origin. Possession of a bird taken in the wild is an offence, but until now suspects can escape prosecution by claiming that the birds were born legally in captivity.

The system, being tested in large areas of upland northern England, will be extended to the rest of the country as soon as possible if it proves successful.

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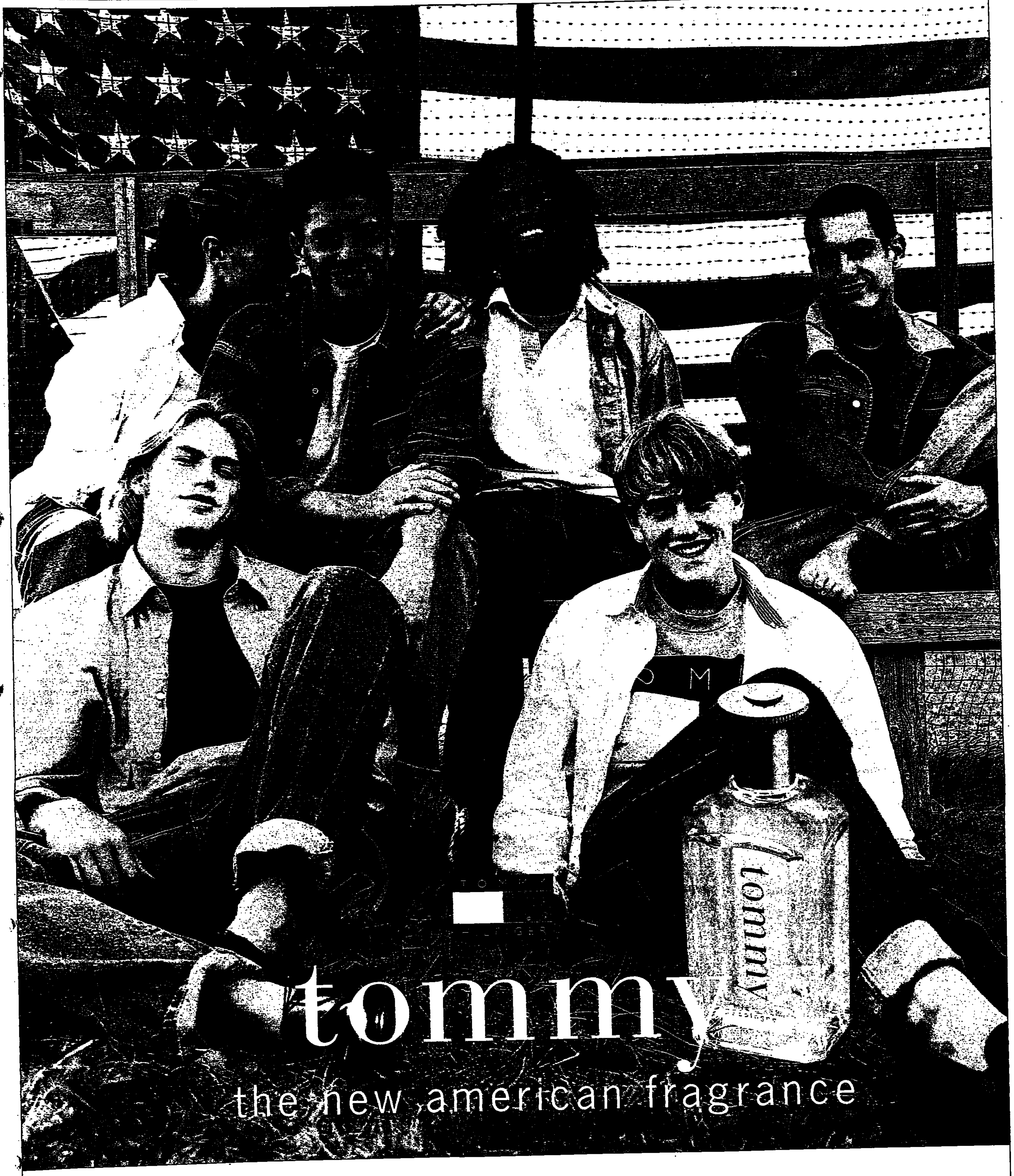

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Dieting mothers pass on heavy burden to girls

BY IAN MURRAY

MOTHERS who diet make their daughters eat less, researchers have found. A survey of 400 12-year-old-girls shows that those who eat fewer meals or snacks have mothers who started dieting from a young age and who have gone on frequent diets since.

Dr Helen Edmunds and Dr Andrew Hill, of Leeds University School of Medicine, asked the state school girls and their mothers to fill out questionnaires about their eating habits. The answers showed that the girls who scored highly on dietary restraint tended to be heavier despite eating less, were more liable to fast and had a lower self-esteem.

They also reported significantly more parental control of their diets, especially where overeating was concerned, than girls who tended to eat what they liked. The mothers of the dieting girls confirmed that they exerted a high degree of control over their children's eating. They admitted, too, that they began dieting when young and continued to do so more frequently than other mothers of a similar weight.

The report, which was presented yesterday to the Third London International Conference on Eating Disorders, says the evidence shows that parents must recognise their influence on children's diets and must therefore give them sensible advice.

Another study in Arkansas found that adolescents with eating disorders had difficulty with family relationships. "Parents of these patients can also have a difficult time separating their child from the eating disorder and can often come across as blaming and overly critical," the study says.

In another report, the Leeds team asked 314 girls aged just under ten which three classmates they liked most and which ones they felt were most attractive. They found that girls who ate sparingly, but were heavier than their peers, were significantly less popular and were judged to be less attractive than girls who ate what they liked. In two thirds of cases, popular girls were also thought to be attractive. "These findings highlight the social isolation of girls who tend to be heavier than their peers," the report says.

However, Dr Kelly Vitousek, of the University of Hawaii, told the conference that peer pressure could be a factor. "Fourteen-year-old girls can come to the conclusion that they make more friends, form closer ties with their teacher, achieve higher grades and more celebrated accomplishments if they skip lunch," she said. Isolated girls were often the most vulnerable to anorexia.

Another study in Melbourne, Australia, found that "fat talk" was a main topic among schoolgirls and increased significantly as they grew older. The girls told the researchers that "body comparison" between them and fashion models was common and led them to consider or initiate dieting.

The quest for perfectionism appears to be one of the driving factors in eating disorders. A study in Vancouver, Canada, found women suffering from anorexia nervosa had far higher standards than normal people or those suffering from other psychiatric conditions. Early identification of perfectionism among young girls might give an early warning of an eating disorder.

Opening the conference, Dr Bryan Lask, of Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, questioned the modern fixation with weight and shape. "We can be over-preoccupied with that," he said. "There are three billion women in the world who don't look like models and only eight who do. Yet all the media attention is focused on the eight."

JOHN STILLWELL/PA

Patient misses sporting chance on royal visit

Nicky Welsh, a cystic fibrosis patient, counting up her daily intake of pills with Diana, Princess of Wales, at London's Royal Brompton Hospital yesterday. Mrs Welsh, 29, a keen football supporter, had hoped to ask the Princess for help to obtain Cup Final tickets — but forgot to ask. "My husband and his family are mad Chelsea fans, and I was going to ask if she could get six tickets," she said. "I was concentrating so much on everything else that it slipped my mind. The Princess has a very calming influence, but I must have been concentrating on showing her my wedding photographs. She cuddled me and said I was shaking like a leaf." The Princess agreed to visit the hospital to publicise the plight of cystic fibrosis sufferers. Mrs Welsh is waiting for a heart and lung transplant by Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub. In the meantime she has to take 69 tablets a day with two insulin injections and other medicine. Professor Yacoub was unable to meet the Princess as he was delayed in the Royal Brompton's operating theatre.

"He had an extremely complex case," a hospital spokeswoman said. The Princess perched on Mrs Welsh's bed to look at the wedding pictures and set off an alarm. A nurse found that the Princess had sat on the patient's red call button. "If she'd sat on the white one, which is cardiac arrest, everyone would have come running," Mrs Welsh said. Later the Princess visited a children's ward, where she met 12 patients with the inherited disease.

The problems when a baby is very big news

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE ideal weight for a baby is probably between 7½ and 8lbs. Too little and they are prone to cardiovascular disease in later life; too heavy and, without a Caesarian delivery, mother and child may both suffer at the birth.

Thanks to modern midwifery, Reece Curson Thompson has been delivered weighing 14lbs in Consett, Co Durham. He comes from a family of large babies; his elder sister was 9lb 3oz, his brother 12lb 3oz and his younger sister 11lb 3oz.

Once an ultrasound has warned the doctor that a baby is likely to be more than 10lb — or less, in some cases — a Caesarean section is usually the preferred option for the mother. Delivery of Reece's head might have been possible, but would probably have resulted in unacceptable lacerations and tears to his mother. Delivering the shoulders can be more tricky. Shoulder dystocia — shoulders jammed in the pelvis — is damaging to the mother and, even if the baby is not asphyxiated, it can result in serious injuries to the child's central or peripheral nervous system. The usual technique to deliver a baby after shoulder dystocia is to put two fingers under each of the baby's armpits, and then for the doctor to place his or her feet against the end of the bed, to pull with all the weight at their command.

As the baby is delivered its colour, one always prays, will change from purple to pink as it utters a first grateful cry. Too often, however, damage is done to the nerves leading to the arms. In other cases, too vigorous a tug misapplied to the head can dislocate the neck. Shoulder dystocia is a common cause for claims for damages. Unfortunately, even with ultrasound and a CT scan, its likelihood cannot always be predicted.

Having a large baby can be a warning to the mother that she is at risk of developing diabetes later. The hormonal imbalance which causes babies to be so large as to vie for the record books can be a harbinger of problems with glucose metabolism. Research many years ago suggested that as many as 30 per cent of mothers who had a baby over 10lb might develop diabetes.

In the past, poorly controlled diabetic mothers tended to produce very large, very unhealthy, babies. Fortunately modern treatment makes this hazard unlikely.

Letters, page 23

Transplants wrong, parents tell court

BY RICHARD DUCE

A MOTHER whose baby son was left brain-damaged after a heart operation would rather die than undergo similar transplant surgery, the High Court was told yesterday.

Linda Poynter, 38, believes transplants to be wrong on religious grounds, and said that she agreed to a new heart for 16-month-old Matthew because doctors at Harefield Hospital pressured her and her husband, Kevin. She said: "Sometimes with medical things we do overstep the mark. It is the same with sheep-cloning."

The couple, both vegetarians, from Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, are suing Hillingdon Health Authority over the 1987 operation by Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub. They said they were not told of the risk of brain damage.

Rosemary Radley-Smith, a consultant cardiologist who treated Matthew, conceded that she gave no such advice, because the possibility was assessed at less than 1 per cent. The risk was now made clear. The case continues.

Family sues over school race abuse

A young girl was so humiliated by racist playground taunts that she put talcum powder on her face to lighten her skin, her mother said. Katie Jarvie, 10, whose father is Afro-Caribbean, said she wished she was dead after enduring 18 months of abuse.

Linda Jarvie, 28, of Muir of Ord, is suing Highland council for £20,000, claiming that teachers at Tarradale primary school did not implement the Race Relations Act and failed to stop the bullying.

Funeral for Zoe

Zoe Evans, the nine-year-old found murdered near Warminster, Wiltshire, in February, was buried after a funeral service at the town's Minster, attended by hundreds of mourners. Her stepfather, Miles Evans, 23, has been charged with her murder.

Tarantula legs it

A tarantula the size of an adult's hand has probably died from cold after giving its owner the slip while being exercised in woods at Weymouth. London Zoo said: "Our sympathies should be with the spider. It is unlikely to survive even a short time."

Re-released

The press release written for Paul McCartney after the murder of John Lennon in 1980 is estimated to fetch £15,000 at Christie's on May 29. The statement, with amendments by McCartney, said: "John was a great man who will be sadly missed by the world."

Guard dog stolen

A Staffordshire bull terrier bought as a guard dog has been stolen by burglars from a home in Gravesend, Kent. They also took clothes, money and seven-month-old Arnie's lead, but they left behind a television and a video recorder.

Peacock attack

A peacock that attacked a four-year-old boy at a garden centre has been put down. Gregory Beck was pecked by the bird on his forehead and shoulders when visiting Fontley Nurseries at Titchfield, near Fareham, Hampshire, with his parents.

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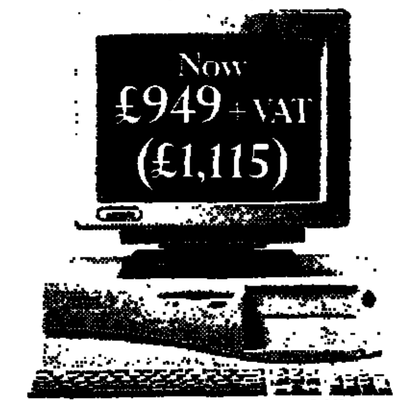

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ELECTION 97

POLL DAY -15

Paddy Ashdown keeps his feet on the ground
Matthew Parris – page 13

Labour's 'least tribal politician'
On the campaign trail with Frank Field
– page 10

In search of the elusive Mr Hogg
Damien Whitworth
– page 11

The sun is out and in a couple of weeks the Tories will be out, Labour leader promises the crowd

We are going to win, confident Blair announces

By James Landale and Jill Sherman

TONY BLAIR let his confidence get the better of him yesterday and predicted for the first time that Labour would win the election.

The Labour leader, who styles himself the "eternal warrior against complacency", usually refuses to admit that he is heading for an election victory. He fears that Labour supporters will not bother to vote if they feel the May 1 poll will result in a landslide.

But as Mr Blair arrived yesterday for a walkabout in Crawley, West Sussex, he bluntly told the crowd: "The sun is out and in a couple of weeks the Tories will be out."

Mr Blair's unqualified remarks reflect his increasing confidence as the Tories fail to make much headway in the opinion polls. He is convinced that his new strategy of painting Labour as the only party with a positive agenda will have a strong impact on voters disillusioned with the election campaign.

Mr Blair added: "We have a great country but a lousy government. Never mind all this negative campaigning. These people deserve a better government than the one they have got. If in two weeks' time we get the trust and support of the people, we can win."

During his walkabout, Mr Blair was challenged by two Tory activists who questioned him about Labour's plans for a minimum wage. In another enounter, David Fletcher Packard, 22, a musician, asked: "Tony, what are you going to do about British rock music?" Mr Blair replied: "I will tell you what I am going to do for British rock music. I am never going to play in a band again."

Mr Blair, who was lead singer for a band called the Ugly Rumours at Oxford, then signed a Jimi Hendrix tape cassette with the words: "To Jimi, Tony Blair."

Earlier Mr Blair had been accused by Michael Heseltine of "appalling hypocrisy". The Deputy Prime Minister attacked the Labour leader, insisting that he was trying to deny choice in education while sending his children to the grant-maintained London Oratory school in Fulham.

"I cannot stand the hypocrisy of a man who says he would deny choice in the education system and then opts for choice for his own children," Mr Heseltine said. Mr Blair should have sought action from the Labour councillors who run education in his home area of Islington to improve schools. "When he had to make that judgment himself [about choice], he could not face the appalling hypocrisy of what he had done. He made a decision that suited himself," Mr Heseltine said. "A man who would do that is not fit to direct the nation's education let alone become Prime Minister."

Mr Blair dismissed Mr Heseltine's attack angrily as a further example of Tory negative campaigning. Speaking during a visit to Brighton, Mr Blair said: "The Tories are getting very, very personalised about it, very abusive. But it is water off a duck's back. The public will make their own judgment. As for their attacks, it is sticks and stones."

He said that the Tories were desperate. "What is important is that we carry on talking to the people about what they want to hear about, schools, hospitals and law and order."

Mr Blair was asked later about Mr Heseltine's attack while holding a question-and-answer session at Brighton University. He said: "My children go to state schools. Most of them (the Tories) send their children to private schools. The school that he (Euan) goes to, he could have gone to at any time in the past 30 years or could in the future under a Labour government."

CHRIS HARRIS

Tony Blair on a campaign walkabout yesterday in Crawley, West Sussex

Past record lets Tories count on fairweather friend

By Glen Owen

THE sun is not backing Blair. With the Met Office forecasting a sunny polling day, the Labour Party will not be taking comfort from past links between fine weather and recent election victories for the Conservatives.

The Conservatives associate a low-voter turnout with election victory. Last autumn, John Major was reported to be considering a December election, in the hope that chilly winter weather on polling day would keep people from the booths. But past results suggest otherwise.

In the month running up to the last election, on **April 9, 1992**, when Mr Major secured a 21-seat majority, 25 per cent less rain fell than usual. The average temperature for the month was 11.7C (53F), 1.5C higher than usual.

In the month before **June 11, 1987**, conditions were also pleasant, with 25 per cent less rainfall and temperatures holding up to the usual 16.2C (61F). Margaret Thatcher won a 102-seat majority.

Although the run-up to **June 9, 1983**, was less congenial, with 86 per cent more rain than usual falling, polling day itself was a warm 20C (68F), with 4.5 hours of sunshine. Margaret Thatcher romped home with a 143-seat majority.

The lead up to her first election victory, on **May 3, 1979**, when she claimed a 43-seat majority, bucked this mini-trend, after a month in which 54 per cent more rain fell than usual. On the day itself, the average maximum temperature was 10.7C (51.2F), nearly six degrees below the usual for the month.

Bob Worcester, from MORI, detects a trend. "Bad weather on polling day will typically benefit the incumbent Government, unless there is a strong mood for change. Then the weather is irrelevant."

He points to the result on **February 28, 1974**, the last time Labour formed a government. It came after one of the wettest months on record, with nearly twice the average rainfall. On polling day itself, it was raining over two-thirds of the country.

"Back then, bad weather favoured the Conservatives on polling day because their traditional voters could afford to drive to the booths, while Labour supporters were more likely to have to walk. But this did not apply then because there was a strong desire to remove the Conservatives from power."

Tony Blair will want to look to the example of **Thursday, October 15, 1964**, when Labour came to power after 13 years of Conservative rule. On polling day, voters were treated to 5.7 hours of sunshine, and unseasonally high temperatures of more than 20C.

Weather, page 28

'New' Clark ignores Chelsea babes in favour of their babies

Carol Midgley goes walkabout with a guarded Alan Clark in Kensington and Chelsea and sees a "class act" greeted like a national treasure

THERE was a dangerously familiar glint in Alan Clark's eyes as, wearing his most rakish smile, he made a beeline for the ample-chested young woman standing on the pavement. "How are you? I'm Alan Clark. Very pleased to meet you. Are you local?"

The true focus of his attention, however, was not the thirtysomething blonde who swooned over him as if he were a 1950s film star, but her twin babies, Olivia and Marcello, gurgling in their pram. And if there was any room for doubt as to Mr Clark's intentions yesterday, at his side stood his wife, Jane, who stuck to him like glue throughout his walkabout.

This was New Clark, reformed character and born-again politician, on the hustings with the voters of Kensington and Chelsea. With his selection as the Tory candidate to replace Sir Nicholas Scott, he has managed a remarkable comeback from retirement, for which he is extremely grateful. He clearly intends to seize the opportunity: no frivolity for him during this election campaign.

"I am trying to be taken more seriously," he said gravely within minutes of our meeting yesterday (for which he wore the soberest of grey suits and least natty of ties). "I am reducing my profile in a personality sense, although I am out meeting people in the constituency all the time."

Is he now reformed in the philandering sense? "Well, that has been very over-depicted anyway, perhaps because of the diaries. People think I am some kind of sex maniac. I just told the truth."

A ripple of alarm had crossed Mr Clark's face when he was asked if he would mind his photograph being taken by *The Times*. "Not with you, surely?" he said sharply, seeming to sense a set up. When he was assured that it was not him with female journalist, but him with voters that was required, he relaxed again. "Oh well, yes that's fine," he said.

Interviewing Alan Clark is an unnerving experience: one fears that behind the youthful blue eyes and smile, a razor-like brain is working and, perhaps, lining up a derogatory aside for his next diary. New Clark is exceptionally guarded, but without any real need. On a walkabout in Kensington, he was a class act, greeted like a national treasure, even by Labour voters.

"Ooh, you're Alan Clark aren't you?" gushed a doting octagenarian blushing like a schoolgirl. "You can have my vote. Lovely."

"You're the one who wrote the diaries, aren't you?" said a man in his fifties. "It's got a green cover hasn't it. My wife bought it but is saving it for her holidays."

Mr Clark, 69, seemed to take care to avoid shaking hands with nubile women, preferring pensioners instead, but could not resist the twins. He himself, he explained, has a young grandchild on whom he and Jane dote.

"No way, no way am I voting for you. I've read the diaries," said another woman, adding almost fondly, "but I did enjoy them."

Butchers, estate agents and flower sellers leapt from their posts to shake the hand of the man who called people in his last constituency, Plymouth Sutton, "boring, petty, malign, clumsily conspiratorial and parochial". Many just recognised him as "the man from the telly".

It is a testament to his legendary likeability that during an election campaign dominated by sleaze, a man who admits to having sex with two sisters and their mother has barely been mentioned. Mr Clark insists on behaving honorably. "I won't say anything about it. I won't ever split on the girls, despite everything."

The wronged husband, James Harkess, 67, who arrived in London from his home in South Africa last week, says he has no option but to campaign for the Labour candidate in the constituency, Robert Atkinson, claiming Mr Clark is "a man unsuitable for politics".

After visiting the site of proposed new public lavatories and pushing leaflets through a few doors, Mr Clark rolled up at the Home for Distressed Gentlefolk. As he signed the visitor's book, the women receptionists resisted telling him that at his age he was eligible to be a resident himself. They were too busy gazing into his eyes.

Alan and Jane Clark indulging in some "serious" campaigning yesterday

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Labour pledges to bring scientists back to Britain

Jill Sherman reports on the party's proposed endowment trust

Scientists, left to right, Trevor Baylis, Dr Mary Harris and Sir Martin Rees back plan to set up science trust

LABOUR promised yesterday to reverse the brain drain by attracting scientists back to Britain through a new trust for science and technology.

The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts would be set up on the lines of the National Trust and provide start-up grants in exchange for a proportion of long-term royalties from new products. The aim would be to attract endowments for scientists and inventors from copyrights or patents of their inventions and discoveries.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, claimed to have won the support of leading scientists for Labour's initiative. As proof, it published messages of support from 21 scientists, some of whom had abandoned Britain for better opportunities abroad.

Four scientists appeared in a video endorsing the new fund. These included Michael Duff, Distinguished Professor of Physics at Texas A & M University, who left Britain after successive Conservative Governments failed to provide adequate support. In response to Labour's proposal, he said: "*This is just the sort of fillip* that weary British scientists are sorely in need of. It will also help to create the kind of environment that will again make Britain the sort of place that UK scientists abroad will want to come home to."

The other endorsements came from Sir Martin Rees, Astronomer Royal, Dr Mary Harris, director-general of the Year of Engineering Success, and Trevor Baylis, inventor of *the clockwork radio.*

☐ **Education zones:** Labour also announced plans yesterday to set up "education action zones" to boost standards in inner city schools.

Gain matches drain as comings and goings make a myth out of theory

Nigel Hawkes believes that Labour will have to *guarantee tenured positions and research support* to lure top British scientists home from abroad

THE Labour Party's ambition to reverse the "brain drain" and reinforce the science base cannot be achieved for nothing. Yesterday's announcements were full of declarations of intent but coy about the sources of new finance without which there will be little to tempt British scientists home.

Much depends on the success of the planned National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts, which has been promised lottery money. Labour also hopes that successful scientists and inventors, presumably those who have become rich despite all the obstacles put in their way during the past 18 years, will help to endow it.

Most British scientists who go abroad do so because they are offered jobs and research grants. Twenty years on and with their most productive years behind them, some may feel like coming home, but it is not because Labour's science policy is essentially any different from that of the Tories. In America, science budgets are also under pressure. The most recent US budget calls for cuts that have sent shivers through the scientific community. So a Labour government with the right mood music might persuade some scientists to return. But the most successful would need tenured positions and guarantees of research support to take the risk.

Opinions differ over whether the brain drain *does much damage.* The most recent report, produced by the Science and Engineering Policy Studies Unit in 1993, showed that 447 British scientists and engineers left between 1984 and 1992. But over the same period, 462 entered the country: 144 were *British citizens returning,* and the other 318 were immigrants. The report concluded that the emigration rate had not increased: if anything, it may have diminished slightly since the 1970s. The worry was that it was the top *quality people who were leaving.*

Britain trains more scientists than it can afford to employ in research and then we feel we have failed when they choose to work elsewhere. Once abroad, they tend to exaggerate the exigencies that drove them there. In reality, as a *recent study by Sir Robert May,* the Government's chief scientific adviser, showed, British science is still in the top rank. In terms of spending, a subject on which Sir Robert is now preparing a second paper, the record is not so good.

The research budget has been maintained in money terms, if not in real terms, in recent years. There are serious problems over university equipment, much of which is overdue for replacement, and over career prospects. The same complaints are heard in America.

Over the years, Britain has probably gained at least as much from scientific mobility as it has lost. From Ernest Rutherford — a New Zealander by birth — through the Jewish scientists exiled by the Nazis in the 1930s, to Professor Plomin and Sir Robert May himself, an Australian who has held chairs at home, in the US and at Oxford. Britain has a substantial brain gain to boast about.

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Blair should find time for man who can square circles

Frank Field always has new angles on old problems, writes **Peter Riddell**, and his fresh thinking could get Labour out of some tight corners

FRANK FIELD is Labour's most original and least tribal politician — a Blairite before Tony Blair, though never one of his inner circle; always willing to challenge the party's conventional thinking, almost at the cost of his seat in the 1980s; and respected across party lines and outside Westminster, even by Margaret Thatcher.

If anyone could break out *of the bland cynicism of* Labour's safety-first national campaign, surely it would be him.

Yesterday as we strolled around the Birkenhead constituency he has represented since 1979 Mr Field was, as ever, full of ideas. He believes, however, that a cautious Labour campaign was necessary. "We could not be elected on any other programme."

His worries are more about what happens after May 1 — about problems no one has even thought about, to say nothing of how to stay within the tight expenditure constraints left by the Tories, and accepted by Labour. He believes a new government will gradually have to build up support for a reformed programme: for example, by a consultative Green Paper exercise on changes to the welfare state before legislation.

Mr Field is forever looking for room for new initiatives. For instance, he wants to use the money saved by switching from student grants to loans to help single mothers into work by expanding childcare facilities. But this would immediately run into Treasury accounting conventions about what must be classified as public expenditure. If Mr Field has his way, some cherished Treasury conventions will have to be challenged.

He is also looking for *greater flexibility* in the way the welfare state works. For instance, at present, 60 per cent of rents paid on council houses and housing association properties are financed by housing benefits. This discourages people from seeking work. So he would like to increase the flexibility and overlap between those on benefits and work while cracking down on real fraud.

He is forever surprising. For instance, he notes that the big cutbacks of Cammell Laird shipyards have affected the attitudes and motivation of young men in Birkenhead. Previously they had the discipline provided by working in the yards. And even the local boxing clubs have been in decline, a victim of 1980s political correctness, he says. The aesthetic High Anglican Mr Field is an *unlikely advocate of boxing.* But he has become president of some local amateur clubs which, he says, offer safer outlets for the aggressiveness of young men than fighting on the streets.

Throughout, he links possible national proposals with his constituency — with single mothers he *meets on a housing estate or* the help given to less-talented pupils at a local Catholic comprehensive school. The headteacher there is, he says, just like Lady Thatcher, "wonderful". Few Labour politicians would ever cite her in such complimentary terms.

Mr Field says that this school has developed a programme to encourage numeracy and literacy, information technology and social skills among young girls which encourages them to seek proper jobs rather than quickly become single mothers. Indeed, Mr Field believes that the pupils should only be allowed to leave school when they have achieved certain basic qualifications rather than simply by becoming 16.

Frank Field: always willing to surprise

It is this unconventional pragmatism which a Labour government will need, given that it is already pledged to operate within tight expenditure constraints. For him, the test of a Labour government in five years' time will be whether it has started to reform the welfare state to link people's self-interest to responsibility and to move from dependency to opportunity.

At the election after next, Mr Field hopes that voters will be able to move from "trust us to trust fulfilled". It is all, he says, up to whether Tony Blair wants to be just prime minister or a great prime minister. Mr Field leaves no one in any doubt that he wants to be part of Mr Blair's team.

[illegible]

Farmers tell Major culling begins at home

Alan Hamilton reports that Devon cattlemen refuse to back Tories unless Agriculture Minister is sacked

WHAT the hard-pressed farmers of Devon want is a Hogg cull. Unless John Major can assure them that a future Conservative government will *eliminate* all traces of Hogg from Britain's farms, they will *not vote for it*.

Farmers are usually a down-to-earth breed, but when they confronted the Prime Minister in the auction ring of Tavistock cattle market yesterday, they could not bring the name for the ailment to their lips as though it were some taboo, an embarrassing rash. They constantly *referred to it* by its drawing-room euphenism "the Minister of Agriculture".

Mr Major, like a prevaricating vet who will not tell you straight what is wrong with your cow, dodged the issue, but hinted that he had a cure for Hogg in his medicine bag. A re-elected Tory Government would start with a fresh team and he himself would take a hands-on approach to *the Ministry of Agriculture*. It was not clear whether this *operation would require him* to wear a rubber glove up to his elbow.

Tavistock is at the heart of the intensively farmed constituency, the second biggest in England, of Devon West and Torridge, held last time by Emma Nicholson with a 3,800 majority until she was captured by aliens, injected with a Martian strain of mad cow disease and turned into a Liberal Democrat. The Tories have rather smartly replaced *her as candidate* by importing good Scotch stock. Ian Liddell-Grainger *is a bluff* Borders beef farmer who knows all about cattle culls.

Even his campaign director, Lord Stockton, grandson of Harold MacMillan, has become a farmer, with 350 acres outside Tavistock. The Liberal Democrat challenger, a local councillor with no farm, appears to be starting at a serious disadvantage.

Mr Liddel-Grainger was predictably loyal about the Government's handling of the BSE crisis. "I was fairly critical at the time, but I did *not see what else we could do* to get where we are now."

The local *farmers were* much less tolerant. Sandy Loud and Ruth Burrow, two local beef and dairy farmers, sported bright yellow T-shirts with the legend "This cow isn't mad, she's bloody livid" on the front and "No more Bull" on the back. Mr Major *hugged them warmly*. "*I have* met you before." He certainly had: the two *women* wore their T-shrts to last year's Tory conference.

"If only we had got rid of Hogg from the start, this crisis would never have happened; he has been hopelessly weak in Europe. They must get rid of Hogg and be strong in Europe," Mrs Loud said. Mrs Burrow added: "Put *somebody in the Min of Ag* who understands farmers; Hogg is a lawyer for heaven's sake."

The women told Mr Major that the beef industry would suffer for at least the next eight years. "Get rid of Hogg and I think the Conservatives can win back the farming vote," Mrs Burrow said.

John Dawe, local branch chairman of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), was another who was blunt with *Mr Major*. "*I made it clear* that I would not vote Tory if I *had the slightest suspicion* that man was going back as Agriculture Minister." Richard Haddock, vice-chairman of the Devon NFU, told the Prime Minister that lowland beef was the one sector of farming still not properly subsidised and *that* if the Governmenmt did not do *something* about it *pretty* damn quick. 5,000 farmers would go bankrupt.

Mr Major made all the right soothing noises, as though trying to calm a panicy heifer. "I do not believe there was ever a justification for the banning of British beef across *Europe; there was* panic." Britain had honoured *its side of the BSE elimination* agreement with Europe. Now *it was time for other* European countries to introduce beef hygiene controls as tough as those in Britain, he added. That went down particularly well.

The questioning turned technical. Would Mr Major commit himself to laying his hands on the £200 million in the European Union kitty earmarked for ironing out adjustments in the green pound? Mr Major would not commit himself; green pound expertise is not always immediately to hand at 3 o'clock on a Tuesday afternoon.

The one way for Mr Major *to ensure* the votes of the Tavistock farmers would be to *say that he intended to* appoint Angela Browning, Mr *Blobby, Dr Frankenstein* or indeed anyone else as Agriculture Minister. After May 1, of course, a Hogg cull may prove unnecessary. Mother nature often has her own way of dealing with troublesome ailments.

ADAM BUTLER / PA

The Prime Minister meets children at Erme County Primary School in Ivybridge, Devon, yesterday

Leaders score badly in Spice Girls quiz

JOHN MAJOR elegantly batted away tricky questions on the single currency, unemployment and the Tories' electoral prospects yesterday, but was clean bowled by the nightmare poser for any *politician keen to enhance* his street credibility: name the Spice Girls (Arthur Leathley writes).

The Prime Minister was challenged to better Tony Blair's attempt to put names to the five members of the all-girl band that has swept Britain and America.

Mr Blair was ridiculed when he was able to name only three of the quintet, but *Mr Major* failed to hit even such modest heights, proffering the names of *just two* of the singers, Mel and Geri. *He was unable to specify* which of the duo of Mels, B or C, he was referring to.

The Prime Minister was hit with the googly at the end of an interview with journalists in Plymouth. In vain he had he appealed to his interrogator to ask him questions about opera.

Damian Whitworth trots after one little Hogg who never got to market

LIKE so many of the cows which must trouble his dreams at night, Douglas Hogg did not make it to market yesterday.

The Agriculture Minister, who has been notably absent from the general election limelight, was due to make his debut on the national *campaign stage. In the event*, the whole thing was *something of a pig's ear*.

Amid the continuing fallout from the BSE crisis it has clearly been the view of Conservative Central Office that this Hogg would not wash with the voters and he has been kept firmly out of sight. He has been among the band of Cabinet ministers who have not appeared at any *of the morning Westminster* press conferences; nor is it planned that he should do so.

But yesterday, after John Major's decision to go face to face with the fishermen of Cornwall, it was billed that Mr Hogg would be squaring up to his nemesis. Midlands press spokesmen said that Mr Hogg would be visiting a *Staffordshire* market. However, while Mr Major went *into the lions' den and found* that most of the lions were out fishing, Mr Hogg, who has recovered enough from an injured ankle to cast off his crutches, poked his head into the lair and quickly pulled it out again.

In one respect poor Mr Hogg was blameless. The market in Cannock does not trade in livestock and although the area, which was *once busy with mining, has* much agriculture, it is uncer*tain how many sons of the soil* he would have encountered. But Mr Hogg would not have discovered that because he did not discover the market.

If this does not rank as the shortest town centre walkabout of 1997 it will be intriguing to see which fleet-footed candidate beats him.

Mr Hogg emerged from the Cannock Unionist Club and set off with the local candidate, John *Backhouse*, at a brisk trot.

His first encounter with the public was with a couple quietly tucking into a picnic on a patch of grass. "How are you today?" asked the minister. *The couple, mouths full of* sandwiches, grimaced and *shooed him away*. "*Lovely to* meet you," Mr Hogg said and scampered on into the shopping centre.

"Hello, nice to meet you," he chirped. "I am not your candidate," he added hurriedly. "This is your local Conservative candidate, John Backhouse," he told shoppers.

To his credit, *however many people told him to* go away Mr Hogg was irrepressibly cheerful and eventually was rewarded with an encounter with some supporters. At last he could pause for breath before heading off again, skipping quickly past a butcher's (to the disappointment of photographers), round the corner and . . . back *to the Unionist Club where* the regulars were barely half *way through the pints* they had started when he left ten minutes earlier.

Hogg: back among his friends in record time

Tory marginals a piece of cake for birthday boy

Lord Archer loves elections, writes **Gillian Bowditch**

IT was not much of a birthday lunch for a multi-millionaire, just a baked potato with cheese washed down by a glass of Coke. But Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, 57 yesterday, said he was enjoying *himself* enormously.

No cards, no presents, no cake: everything has been put on hold for the election. Yesterday *morning found* him in the Scottish Borders *working the marginal seats* of Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale and Roxburgh and Berwickshire, part of a three-day tour of Scotland fitted around his main campaign role of organising the eight rallies for John Major and six for Michael Heseltine.

He acts as the warm-up man, working the crowd of Tory *faithful. He admits to nerves beforehand*, although *not as* bad as the Prime Minister or "Margaret". "They are roaming around, fidgeting, getting *nervous* every time," he says.

But for such a veteran of the campaign trail, (this is his tenth election), he must feel he has been fobbed off with a job which *under-utilises* his skills as a *publicist* and front-man. "Everyone knows I wanted to be party chairman. That's no secret but we've got a chairman and that's the end of that discussion," he says.

It seems a far cry from the days when he played a central role in Conservative affairs, *indulged by Mrs Thatcher*, loved by the party faithful and loathed by some who felt he was a loose cannon.

So why does he keep doing it? The answer is obvious as we step into the bright sunshine of Galashiels shopping centre. He loves it. He shakes hands with everyone before thrusting Alister Jack, the local candidate forward.

"Jeffrey Archer, pleased to *meet you*," *he says. The response* is remarkable. They are all delighted to meet him. Autographs are requested, visiting foreigners *promise* to *vote* for him. The town's traffic warden stops for a chat, even the local Labour councillor pats him on the back.

"It's a drug," he says. "There is nothing like an *election. I love it and when I* stop loving it I will stop doing it.

"I don't have to do this. I could just keep writing books, but I don't think you should be a politician if you don't enjoy meeting people, although lots of them hate it."

Local party chairman Charles Barr-Sim says of *Lord Archer*: "*I've learnt so* much from him already, just *following him around. I don't* know what his secret is. I *think he* just likes *meeting* people. If I had him here for three weeks, we'd have the seat in the bag."

At the Conservative club in Galashiels four middle-aged ladies are stuffing envelopes.

"Why don't you get out of the Lords, and become Prime Minister where you belong?" one of the ladies says, as Lord Archer beams. Not such a bad birthday after all.

Archer, 57 yesterday, campaigns in Scotland

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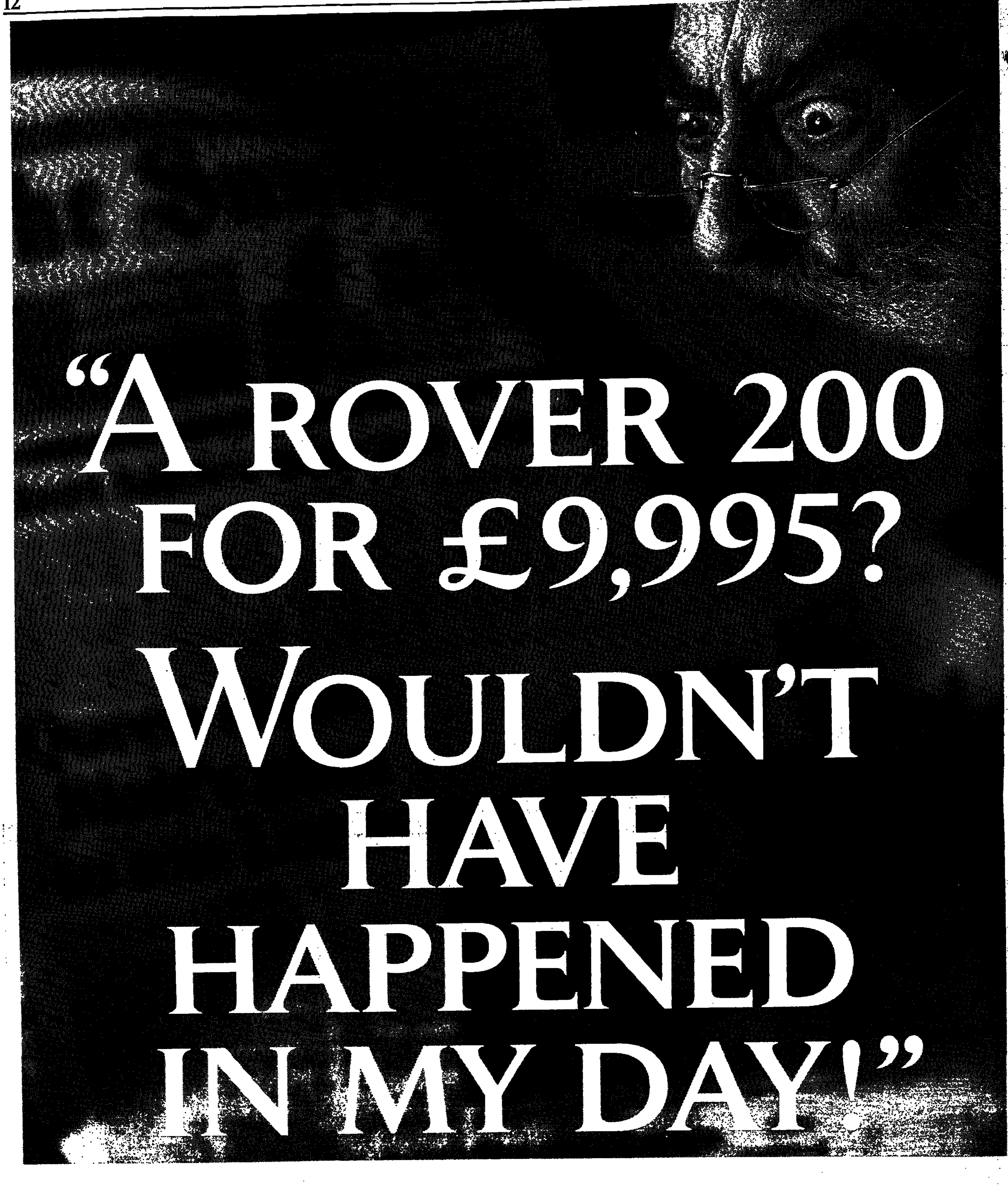

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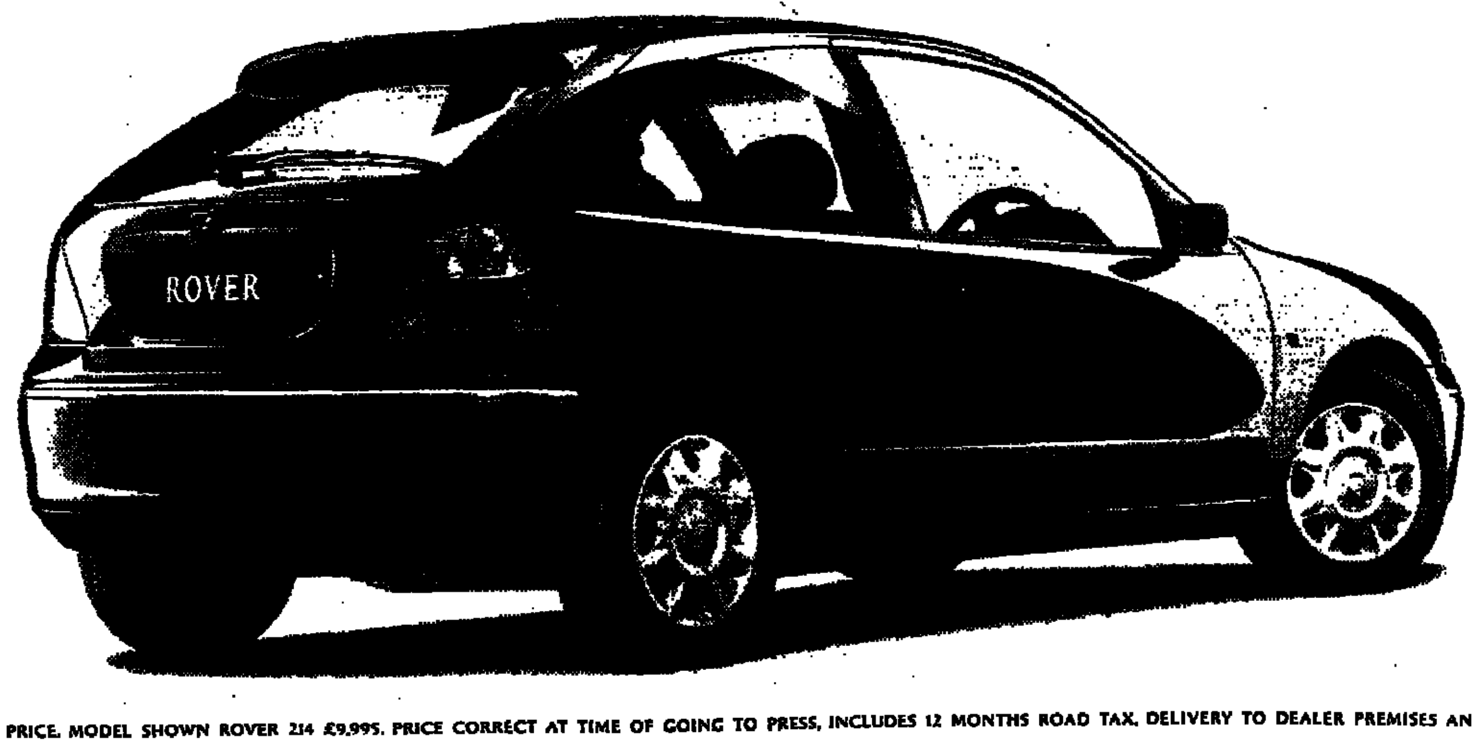

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APRIL 16 1997

Ashdown meets the old to speak of the young

Matthew Parris follows the Liberal leader as he presses the flesh in the safe territory of North Cornwall

FROM the green fields of North Cornwall, flashes of orange and gold catch the eye. The gorse and the Liberal Democrat posters make a delightful show at this time of year. No other flowers, political or horticultural, seem to flourish, and the Liberal Democrat candidate, Paul Tyler, looks secure. But this did not prevent Paddy Ashdown dropping in on him yesterday, just in case.

Mr Ashdown was scheduled to press the flesh outside Bude's curiously crenellated town hall after lunch. Waiting for the occasion was a poster lorry displaying a huge billboard picturing three children and posing the question "Which party will spend more on education?" One boy wore a blue rosette, one a red rosette, and the rosette of the third was gold. The gold boy was smiling. The driver, fag end hanging from his lip, was scowling. The Liberal Democrat battle bus was late. Devon lanes are narrow, the bus a vast yellow double-decker. So Mr Ashdown went on ahead, with Mr Tyler, in a black Jaguar.

The theme of the afternoon was to be Our Children's Future.

Do you remember Evelyn Waugh's *Scoop*? The press baron, Lord Copper, ready to present a journalist whom he supposes to be young with an award, has drafted his entire speech on a single theme: "The opportunities of youth." Lord Copper's heart sinks as the award winner appears, just before the speech is to begin. The journalist is in his seventies. Thus must Mr Ashdown's heart have sunk as, emerging from his car to a backdrop of colourful posters about education, his few well chosen words about Liberal Democrat plans for the young memorised, he was confronted by his audience. They were a small crowd of very old ladies, sprinkled with a handful of very old gentlemen. White perms quivered in the breeze. Sticks tapped the grass, his heart sank. "Hiyah!" he exclaimed, for all the world overjoyed to see them.

But wait! There by the gate was a group of younger people — rather smart: the tweed cap and green wellie brigade. Paddy lurched towards them in relief. The relief was short-lived. They were a delegation from the British Field Sports Society, come to tackle him on Lib Dem evasions over hunting.

But this is where Mr Ashdown shines. Unlike other opposition leaders, Mr Ashdown had not arranged for minders to assess the crowd in advance, identify the trained poodles, push away people with awkward questions and shepherd their man towards the poodles. Now, confronted with the awkward questions, he did not, unlike other opposition leaders, scamper away to the poodles. He listened to his critics, then gave as good an account of his party's policy (or lack of one) as he could muster. They listened to him politely and with growing respect. He left them impressed. Then he steered his older ladies — who had been joined, mercifully, by a single babe-in-arms — towards a boat repair yard, where others were waiting.

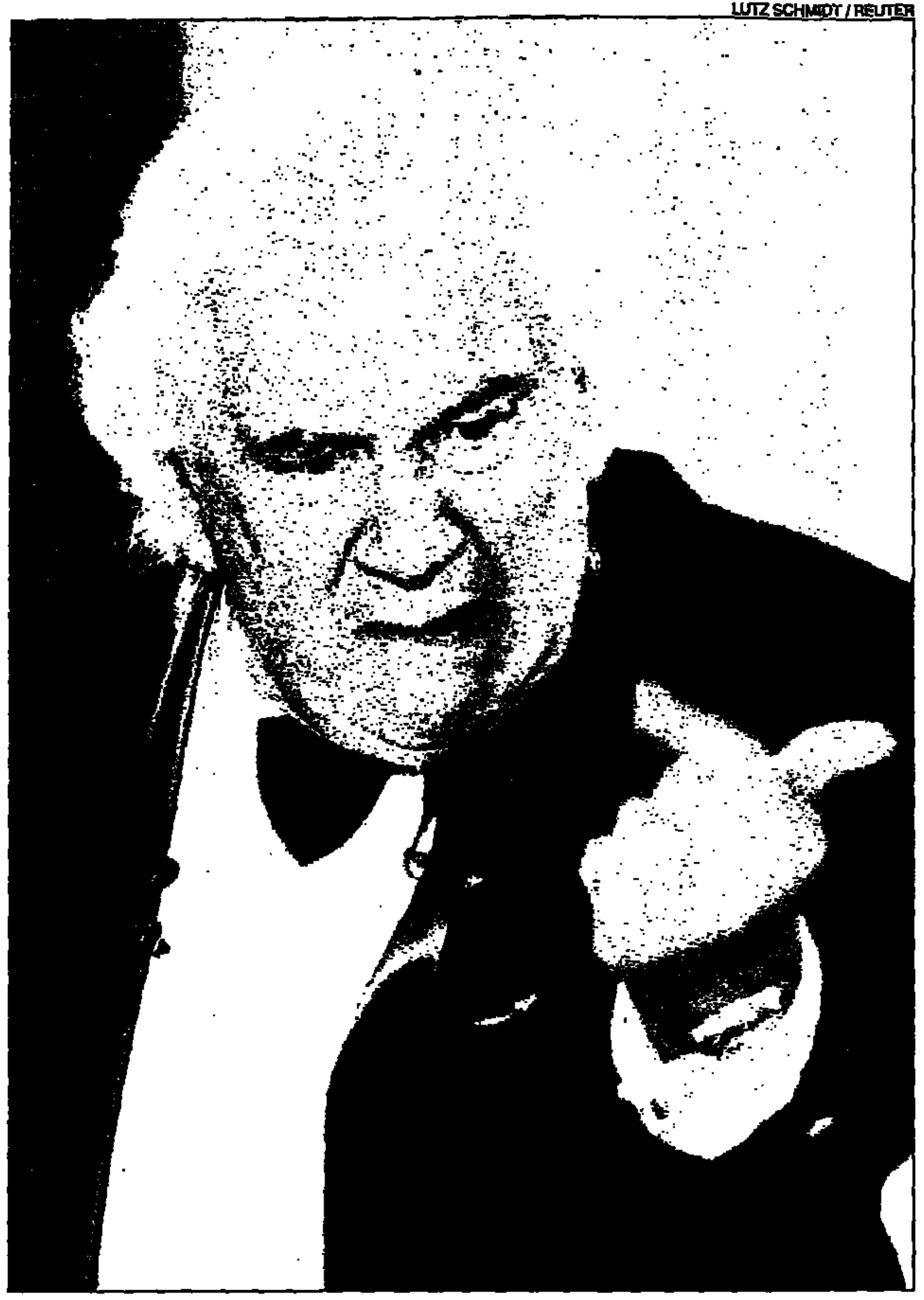
"What's wrong with this boat?" he breezed to a craftsman. "It sunk in a storm," the fellow replied. Mr Tyler looked worriedly at me, conscious of a sketchwriter's poisonous metaphor. But Mr Ashdown made a good, old-fashioned speech to his fans, during which Mr Tyler was spontaneously cheered when his leader mentioned his expertise on agriculture. Mr Ashdown posed with the baby, and departed. What with Mr Tyler's clipped 1950s Pathé News voice, the whole scene could have come from another political era.

Mr Ashdown's next encounter was better suited to his theme. He entered a children's adventure training centre and pulled on a rope designed to haul kids wearing crash helmets up a climbing frame. Journalists challenged him to don a helmet and give it a try. You could see the adventurer in Mr Ashdown straining to accept the challenge. Sadly, the politician in him, envisaging the captions should he fall, won the tussle. He stayed on the ground.

Then we watched more boys in crash helmets climbing up a wall. The Liberal Democrat leader was introduced to a would-be climber. "Good Luck, Brian!" he called as the boy began his ascent.

"Thanks," called the child. "And it's not Brian. It's Ryan." A boy who, half way up a vertical wall and clinging on for dear life, can correct the leader of a great political party as brusquely as Ryan did will go far.

LUTZ SCHMIDT / REUTER



Sir Peter Ustinov is taking an active part in the Lib Dem election campaign

Ustinov pledges to play lead role

By Polly Newton

THE Liberal Democrats will wheel out backers from the world of entertainment this week in a show of support of the kind that is more usually associated with new Labour.

The parade begins today with a joint appearance in London by Paddy Ashdown and John Cleese, a well-known Lib Dem voter who has appeared in the party's election broadcasts.

A lifelong Labour voter, television comedian Barry Took, will tonight chair a Liberal Democrat debate in Bath. He said: "[Tony] Blair and his crowd are good but Charles Kennedy and Paddy Ashdown are part of a young, energetic party that is honest and caring. If I didn't live in Westminster and have to vote tactically to get those Conservative buggers out then I would definitely back them."

Tomorrow afternoon Sir Peter Ustinov, the actor, will appear alongside Baroness (Shirley) Williams to discuss political issues in front of an audience at Church House in London, where the Lib Dems hold their daily 8am press conferences. This is the first time that Sir Peter, a long-time supporter of the party, is taking such an active part in an election campaign.

Nameless people's champion addresses nation from on high

TV WATCH

NICHOLAS WAPSHOTT

LAST night Sir James Goldsmith addressed the nation in the first Referendum Party broadcast. It is a mark of his arrogance that nowhere was he identified. We were, presumably, expected to recognise his features: the balding head, the freckles burnt under a non-English sun, his wild eyes peering from under a troubled brow.

His message, unlike the intervention of Ross Perot in the last two US presidential races, was simple. As he put it: "The real issue is whether Britain remains an independent and free nation or whether it becomes a province of an undemocratic European superstate." And the culprit is the same demon that Sir James has always been fighting, from his founding of the weekly magazine *Now!* to his legal assault upon *Private Eye* — an unrepresentative clique who dominate the political class of Britain.

Who, he asks, are these people who lead us blindly into servitude? His answer: "the political, bureaucratic and media establishment". The whole world, it seems, is against Sir James and his rabble army, a chief undesirable being Edward Heath, who encouraged us to believe that the European adventure would not entail a surrender of Britain's sovereignty. The federal agenda of the Maastricht summit was not an issue in the 1992 election. And "secretly and without our consent our nation is disappearing into a European superstate with one parliament, one currency, one flag".

The Tories have cornered the market in paranoia so far, claiming in their first broadcast that Britain is on the edge of apocalypse with the arrival of a Blair government. But Goldsmith goes one further. Unless we vote Referendum we will be selling our country down the river for ever. Parliament and the courts and the Bank of England will be gone. This is our last chance to smell the sweet scent of freedom. It is an eccentric, serious-minded attempt to appeal over the heads of the conventional parties to the romantic view of Britain's voters.

But Sir James, the fattest of fat cats, ennobled by Harold Wilson in his infamous "lavender honours list", who lives mostly in France, is not the best spokesman for such a crusade. The Referendum Party therefore adopts an odd position: it appeals from on high to the British revulsion at being directed from on high. The whiff of the international jet-set cocktail party which follows the Referendum Party, packed with friends of friends of Sir James, further diminishes its claim to be a grass-roots movement which speaks for the British people.

The Labour Party also made a patriotic appeal last night in its broadcast, introducing the now famous Fitz the Dog, a grumpy bulldog which is reluctant to be taken for a walk. After a few well chosen words from Tony Blair the dog rouses itself and is soon champing at the bit, eventually snapping its lead to set off in its own direction — across a dusty desert landscape to an unknown horizon. This is undoubted Thatcher territory. The British bulldog, after years of being domesticated, will be let off its leash to roam the world, looking for a scrap. Labour, once the party of CND, has, like the subtitle of Stanley Kubrick's *Dr Strangelove*, learned to stop worrying and love the bomb. So the Tories are deprived of another unique selling proposition and Sir James is left wishing he had thought of a better mascot.

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No wrench for spanner in the Conservative works as she breaks consensus over single currency

Voters are unmoved by Tory dame's Euro turn

Dame Angela Rumbold knew exactly what she was doing when she decided to thrust aside the Cabinet's wait-and-see Euro-policy, **Charles Bremner** writes

DAME Angela Rumbold, a Conservative vice-chairman and the latest spanner in the Tory Euro-works, was busy performing the doctrinal splits over the euro yesterday. Not that her constituents noticed. Striding through the sunny streets of Mitcham and Morden, her seat for the past 15 years, Dame Angela, 65, was having it both ways. "I fully support the Government's position with regard to the single currency," she insisted in a formal statement. But there was a catch: "I cannot see myself supporting the erosion of sovereignty that would come from scrapping the pound."

This thinking had just handed a gift to the Opposition. Tony Blair ridiculed the disarray in Tory ranks. Paddy Ashdown said Dame Angela had signalled "the beginning of the break-up of the Conservative Party" because of her rank in the party machine and her job in charge of the candidate lists for the election. Emma Nicholson, a former Tory colleague now with the Lib Dems, called her "a loose cannon on the deck of a sinking ship".

Slightly intimidating in a pistachio-coloured suit that set off her short red hair, Dame Angela had only one word for such stuff as she marched up a suburban street: "Sheer nonsense — nonsense is the word that will do very well."

According to Dame Angela's entourage, the fuss was just media mischief, but there was no doubt that Dame Angela, a straight-speaker and possessor of a sharp mind, knew exactly what she was doing when she decided to thrust aside the veil of ambiguity with which the Cabinet has draped its Euro-policy and say clearly what many a Conservative believes. She wanted, she said, to answer the anxiety that voters voiced on the single currency when she knocked on doors.

Surely there was some contradiction with the Government's delicately ecumenical policy of wait-and-see? "I'm not going to say anything because if I say anything it's ridiculous," Dame Angela snapped as she marched ahead with her "important business".

This consisted of ringing on doorbells up and down Queen Mary Avenue, a quiet street of modest semi-detached houses, much improved by a sea of cherry blossom. The Conservative is in danger of losing the seat, one of the most marginal, to Siobhain McDonagh, 36, a councillor.

Few constituents were around to take the mid-afternoon call from the Tory Dame, who was accompanied by Polly Postans, her daughter who is also her electoral agent, and Sophie, her granddaughter. Her only mistake, after receiving near universal promises of support, was to greet the same pair of old women twice. "But you've just spoken to us," one complained.

She met only one timid query about her European views. She explained that she wanted to safeguard Britain's sovereignty. Among the voters of Morden, there was little apparent interest in Dame Angela's shocking shift from wait-and-see over the euro and her part in what one newspaper proclaimed yesterday to be the biggest battle for Britain's survival since Hitler was defeated.

Over in Morden, there was sympathy for the politician. "Poor old Dame Angela. She's just trying to hold on to her seat," said Kevin Fleming, proprietor of a Morden plumbing shop, referring to her majority of 1,734. Doing her shopping, Phylis Sinden, 85, said Dame Angela "says all the right things. I think the Conservatives know how to handle the foreigners."

A protegée of Nicholas Ridley, who served in three junior ministerial posts, she has blotted her copybook before, notably in 1994 when she had to resign from a £12,000-a-year job with a lobbying firm and in 1995 when she acknowledged that she had failed to disclose a shareholding in an investment fund.

Made a Dame in 1992, she was put in charge of the Conservative candidate list in 1994, and proclaimed her aim to be purging the "identikit apparatchiks" which had dominated it and recruiting more women. However critics say her ambition has been signally unfilfilled. Emma Nicolson, sniped at her yesterday, saying her former colleague "is the woman who has stopped the advance of women candidates".

Dame Angela campaigning in her Mitcham and Morden constituency

Major refused to join the Right

By Arthur Leathley

JOHN MAJOR yesterday said he had resisted demands that the Tories should take a more right-wing or Eurosceptic stance in the election. He said: "People will have to accept me for what I am".

As increasing numbers of backbench MPs voice their opposition to Mr Major's "wait and see" policy on a single currency, the Prime Minister was asked whether a right-wing or Eurosceptic ticket might have proved more popular. "I have always been told over the last few years that if I was able to do this or able to do that, the world would turn on its head. But I am not prepared to turn on my head," he said.

Mr Major said that responsibility for the party's electoral fortunes rested with him. "I have set out my policy. It is what I believe in and people will have to accept me for what I believe, what I do and the way I do it, or reject me."

The prime minister said that he now felt able to return to his original objective, set out when he first became Tory leader, of achieving a "classless society". "It is perfectly true to say I feel liberated in that sense. I can now address the social agenda. That is what I have always cared about and lay behind what I said about a classless society."

He denied that recent speeches calling for greater help for the poor showed a sudden conversion. Yesterday he answered claims that he was searching desperately for centre-ground votes, saying that the Tory party had always believed in social change. He blamed the recession for preventing some of the social changes he had hoped to introduce.

"It has been very difficult to connect personally with the media and with the public as a whole upon those issues. But I think that it is now possible to do."

Leaders vie for place as fishing industry's true defender

By Michael Hornsby

THE Government and the Opposition vied to outdo each other in support for the fishing industry and determination to stand up to Europe yesterday after Britain was forced to accept a decision to reduce catches by up to 30 per cent.

Ministers said the vote in Luxembourg was irrelevant because there was no question of implementing the reductions until British-registered, but foreign-owned trawlers, or "quota-hoppers", were banned from catching British fish. On the hustings in Devon, John Major said he did not have "a shred of intention of cutting the British catch unless and until we have a satisfactory agreement on quota-hopping".

The Prime Minister was asked if a Tory government would be prepared to veto further constitutional changes in the European Union at the inter-governmental conference (IGC) in June if Britain did not get its way over quota-hoppers. "You can use the word veto", he said. "I am saying we will not reach an agreement. There has to be an agreement by unanimity with every nation in the IGC."

Mr Major said the Luxembourg decision showed how "utterly wrong" Labour and the Liberal Democrats were to support an extension of qualified majority voting in the EU. "What happened today, which we will resist, could happen in a whole series of other areas if they scrap the veto" he said.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, on the campaign trail in Brighton, said: "This is yet another failure. First it was beef, now fish. They talk tough but they get nothing done because they are hopelessly divided. A Labour government will get a better deal for the British fishing industry. In my view Mickey Mouse would get a better deal than this lot."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, claiming to be the only party leader to have been on a trawler, said: "The right way to approach all this is to scrap the common fisheries policy altogether and to deal with these issues with an urgent review of fisheries policy. The Prime Minister has decided on bluster for the purposes of the election. We all know what will happen if he is re-elected — he will back down."

In Luxembourg Britain was outvoted by 13 votes to two, with only France on its side. The deal went through under the EU's qualified majority voting system, which is now used for much routine EU business.

Under the Luxembourg deal, it will be left up to individual members states to decide how to achieve the catch cuts — 30 per cent for severely depleted stocks, such as cod and haddock, and 20 per cent for others under less pressure.

The reductions must be achieved within five years either by scrapping vessels, with the aid of grants, or by limiting the number of days during the year that boats can spend at sea, or by a combination of both.

Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, said the 160 foreign-owned fishing boats on the British register alone accounted for a quarter of the British fish catch.

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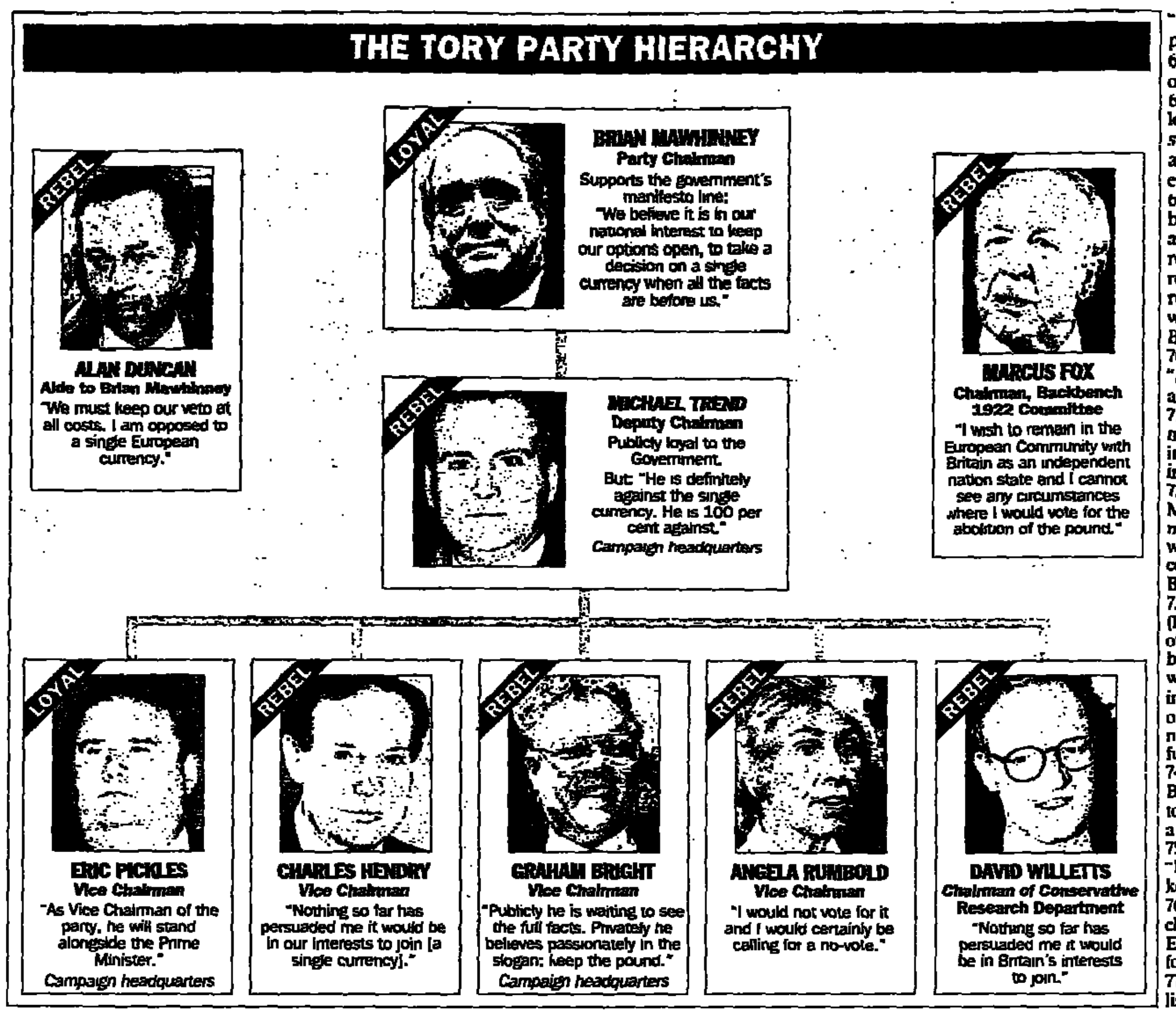
What the Conservative rebels say on Europe

CONSERVATIVE candidates who have rebelled against the Government's "wait and see" policy on monetary union, according to information compiled by *The Times*. Some of the quotations below are from documents published by the Labour Party.

1 **Jacques Arnold**, Gravesham: Conservatives are opposed to the Single European Currency.
2 **Felix Elfed Aubel**, Ceredigion: "I am opposed to the idea of a European single currency."
3 **Neil Badcock**, Truro & St Austell: "I am against a single currency."
4 **Paul Barlett**, Coventry North West: "I promise to vote against the scrapping of the pound."
5 **John Baron**, Basildon: "Whilst believing we should always negotiate to defend Britains's interests, I would expect to oppose a single currency in any referendum."
6 **Spencer Batiste**, Elmet: "I stand ... against Current Proposals for a Single Currency."
7 **Vivian Bendall**, Ilford North: "I am against any moves towards a single European currency."
8 **Richard Benyon**, Newbury: "Richard Benyon ... is opposed to a single currency."
9 **Bob Blackman**, Bedford: "I am fundamentally opposed to the single currency, and I will oppose it in the Commons."
10 **Clive Blackwood**, Eltham: "In the next Parliament, I will vigorously oppose ... any proposal to take Britain into a single European currency."
11 **Alan Blumenthal**, Birmingham Northfield: "Alan Blumenthal will fight ... to oppose monetary union" NB: he Originally told the BBC that he would support the "wait and see" policy.
12 **Sir Rhodes Boyson**, Brent North: "I believe that a single currency would be a disaster for Britain."
13 **Graham Brady**, Altrincham & Sale West: "I believe that a single currency would be bad for our economy and signal the end of Britain's independence as a nation."
14 **Angela Browning**, Tiverton & Honiton: (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Agriculture) "... one of the conditions already stated in the Treaty is that all countries which join must hand over their gold and foreign currency reserves to the Central Bank in Frankfurt. Once you do that, then interest rates will be determined in Europe. It follows that expenditure decisions will then be taken in Europe as well. This is the end of sovereignty of the nation state and if that is what is offered I have made it very clear that I will not support it."
15 **Adam Bruce**, North East Fife: "I believe that the UK should not join a single currency in 1999. I do not believe that it would be in Britain's economic interests to join a single currency at that time."
16 **Peter Bruinvels**, The Wrekin: "I am opposed to the Single Currency."
17 **Les Byrom**, Wirral South: "We should keep out of any single currency or Central bank, unless it can be proved to be in Britain's interests and the present proposals are far, far short of that."
18 **Michael Carttiss**, Great Yarmouth: "I shall not vote to abolish the British pound."
19 **Christopher Chope**, Christchurch: "I will fight against the single currency."
20 **David Congdon**, Croydon Central: "A single currency would be a disaster."
21 **Stephen Day**, Cheedle: "I oppose Britain joining the single currency."
22 **Den Dover**, Chorley: "Den Dover has repeated his opposition to a European single currency in the strongest possible terms. I support a European Common Market but would never vote for a single currency."
23 **Bob Dunn**, Dartford: "I will not vote to abolish the pound."
24 **David Evans**, Welwyn Hatfield: "Would you allow the pound to be scrapped for a single currency ...? [Evans replies] "No way!"
25 **Nigel Evans**, Ribble Valley (PPS to William Hague): "...my position on a single currency and closer ties with Europe is crystal clear. I am opposed to either."
26 **David Evennett**, Bexleyheath & Crayford (PPS to Gillian Shephard): "On national issues he has ... stated publicly his opposition ot a single European currency and monetary union."
27 **Simon Fawthrop**, Islington North: [On the single currency] "I am opposed to it."
28 **Mark Field**, Enfield North: "My personal view has always been in opposition to the United Kingdom joining a common currency."
29 **Jacqueline Foster**, Peterborough: "[Jacqueline Foster is] wholly opposing ... the abolition of the Pound Sterling."
30 **Mark Francois**, Brent East: "Mark Francois, Conservative, believes in ... keeping the pound as our currency."
31 **Christopher Fraser**, Mid Dorset & North Poole: "I will speak up for you to safeguard our ... currency."
32 **Murdo Frase**, East Lothian: "I pledge that, if elected, I would not vote in favour of the abolition of the pound and Britain's entry into the European currency."
33 **Sir Peter Fry**, Wellingborough: "I am firmly against a single currency and want to see powers handed back."
34 **Phil Gallie**, Ayr: "Personally, I see no circumstances under which I will support a common European Currency."
35 **Clare Gledhill**, Don Vallley: "I cannot foresee any circumstances when it would be in Britain's interests to vote to abolish the Pound."



THE TORY PARTY HIERARCHY

BRIAN MAWHINNEY
Party Chairman
Supports the government's manifesto line: "We believe it is in our national interest to keep our options open, to take a decision on a single currency when all the facts are before us."

ALAN DUNCAN
Aide to Brian Mawhinney
"We must keep our veto at all costs. I am opposed to a single European currency."

MARCUS FOX
Chairman, Backbench 1922 Committee
"I wish to remain in the European Community with Britain as an independent nation state and I cannot see any circumstances where I would vote for the abolition of the pound."

MICHAEL TREND
Deputy Chairman
Publicly loyal to the Government.
But: "He is definitely against the single currency. He is 100 per cent against."
Campaign headquarters

ERIC PICKLES
Vice Chairman
"As Vice Chairman of the party, he will stand alongside the Prime Minister."
Campaign headquarters

CHARLES HENDRY
Vice Chairman
"Nothing so far has persuaded me it would be in our interests to join [a single currency]."

GRAHAM BRIGHT
Vice Chairman
"Publicly he is waiting to see the full facts. Privately he believes passionately in the slogan: keep the pound."
Campaign headquarters

ANGELA RUMBOLD
Vice Chairman
"I would not vote for it and I would certainly be calling for a no-vote."

DAVID WILLETTS
Chairman of Conservative Research Department
"Nothing so far has persuaded me it would be in Britain's interests to join."

36 **John Godfrey**, Perth: "I see no advantage to this country giving up our pound sterling."
37 **Robert Gordon**, Watford: "Opposes abolition of the pound."
38 **Teresa Gorman**, Billericay: "I ...will personally never vote to abolish the £."
39 **John Gregory**, Stretford & Urmston: "I vow to oppose a common currency."
40 **Sir Archie Hamilton**, Epsom & Ewell: "If re-elected, I shall vote against monetary union and campaign against it in the referendum the Tories have promised."
41 **Nick Hawkins**, Surrey Heath (PPS to Virginia Bottomley): "Our recent survey results have reinforced my own strong view that the people of Surrey Heath, by a huge majority, are against Britain joining a single currency - as I always have been."
42 **Jerry Hayes**, Harlow: "Conservatives ... want to keep our pound."
43 **Edmund Hayward**, Carmarthen East & Dinefwr: "...the Foreign Secretary has said that he is hostile to the single currency. I strongly support these comments."
44 **Charles Hendry**, High Peak (Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party): "Nothing so far has persuaded me that it would be in our interests to join [a single currency]."
45 **Jason Hollands**, Easington: "I would ... oppose the abolition of the pound."
46 **Philip Hollobone**, Lewisham East: "[Philip Hollobone ... would never vote for the abolition of the pound and would seek a full referendum on Britain's future role in Europe. [He] would vote for repatriation of powers from Brussels."
47 **Gerald Howarth**, Aldershot: "The single currency is the ultimate surrender of sovereignty."
48 **John Hudson**, Oldham East: "I cannot see any circumstances where I would support a single currency."
49 **Stuart Jackson**, Brent South: "He would never vote for a British government to participate in creating a single European currency."
50 **Robert Kinghorn**, Norwich North: "[I am] opposed to a single currency. I cannot see any economic advantages to it."
51 **Michael Lavender**, Hackney North & Stoke Newington: "Michael Lavender does not support the surrender of the pound to a single European currency in principle."
52 **Edward Leigh**, Gainsborough: "Under no circumstances will I support a single European currency."
53 **Barry Legg**, Milton Keynes South West: "No to a single currency." Publicity also contains an article called "Why I am against a single currency."
54 **Oliver Letwin**, Dorset West: "No to the single currency Yes to the repatriation of many of the powers that have already been ceded to Brussels."
55 **Julian Lewis**, New Forest East: "I am the only candidate to promise never to vote for a single currency."
56 **Warwick Lightfoot**, South East Cornwall: "Warwick is opposed to aa single European currency."
57 **Sir Peter Lloyd**, Fareham: "Britain should certainly in the next Parliament not join the single currency, if at all."
58 **Tim Loughton**, East Worthing & Shoreham: "Tim ... opposes the Single European Currency."
59 **Mark Loveday**, Wigan: "I support a referendum on Britain's relationship with Europe. I am against joining a single currency."
60 **Michael Loveridge**, Crewe & Nantwich: "It is right for Britain to keep control over its own destiny and I oppose a European single currency ... As your member of parliament I would vote against this."
61 **Paul McGuinness**, Regent's Park & Kensington North: "In Parliament, Paul McGuiness is pledged to fight for Britain's interests in a Europe of nation states ... saying 'No' to a single currency."
62 **Lady Olga Maitland**, Sutton & Cheam: "No single currency in Europe."
63 **Owen Paterson**, North Shropshire: "I would vote against a single currency."
64 **Jonathan Peacock**, Wakefield: "I will also fight to protect Britain from ... the idea of a European single currency."
65 **Mark Prisk**, Wansdyke: "has pledged ... to oppose the current plans for a single European currency. He says he will vote against any such measure in the House of Commons."
66 **John Redwood**, Wokingham: "...I will not vote to abolish the pound."
67 **Marion Roe**, Broxbourne: "I oppose the single currency."
68 **Graham Riddick**, Colne Valley: "I will do whatever I can to stop the abolition of the pound and its replacement by a single european currency."
69 **Laurence Robertson**, Tewkesbury: "I have said I will vote against a single European currency. I would like to see a full referendum on Britain's wider relationship with Europe and would like to repatriate powers to Britain."
70 **Dr Adrian Rogers**, Exeter: "Adrian Rogers will never vote for a single currency."
71 **David Ruffley**, Bury St Edmunds: "He is not persuaded that it is in the United Kingdom's interests to join a single currency."
72 **Dame Angela Rumbold**, Mitcham & Morden (vice-chairman of the Conservative Party): "I won't vote for it and I would cetainly be calling for a no-vote." BBC2 *Newsnight*, April 14 1997.
73 **Tom Sackville**, Bolton West (Parliamentary Under-secretary of State for Health): "I do not believe that a single currency would be in Britain's best interests from either an economic or political point of view: neither now or for the forseeable future."
74 **Jonathan Sayeed**, Mid-Bedfordshire: "In the 1970s I voted to join a Common Market not for a single currency."
75 **David Senior**, Luton North: "David Senior ... has pledged to keep the Pound."
76 **Stephen Shakespeare**, Colchester: "I believe that a single European currency would be bad for Britain."
77 **David Shaw**, Dover: "I shall listen very carefully to all the arguments about the single currency and then I shall vote against it."
78 **Donald Stewart**, Brigg and Goole: "I am totally against the single currency."
79 **Sir Peter Tapsell**, Louth & Horncastle: "I give you this pledge — I shall never vote to join a Single European Currency."
80 **Donald Thompson**, Calder Valley: "Donald Thompson believes in a strong European trading area, but cannot foresee a single currency with Britain as a member."
81 **John Todman**, Cheltenham: "I want to see the right to set our own agenda ... That means 'no' to a single currency."
82 **Ian Twinn**, Edmonton: "I am strongly opposed to the Single Currency. I will vote against a Single Currency in the referendum we have pledged in the House of Commons."
83 **Bill Wiggin**, Burley: "I am opposed to a single currency."
84 **Michael Winstanley**, Makerfield: "I oppose a single currency and a federal Europe ... I would support a referendum on Britain's future relationship with Europe."
85 **Walter Sweeney**, Vale of Glamorgan MP: "Walter Sweeney has consistently said YES to a free trade area, but NO to the Social Chapter, NO to a single currency..."
86 **Glyn Davies**, Montgomeryshire: "I will oppose the abolition of the British pound within the life of the next Parliament ... I stand for a Europe of independent nations and will say 'No' to abolishing the British currency."
87 **Bill Cash**, Stone: "I will not vote for a single currency or the Social Chapter."
88 **David Heathcoat-Amory**, Wells: "He opposes further integration in the European Union and believes the Government should rule out joining a single European currency."
89 **Robert Syms**, Poole: "I believe in the British controlling their own destiny and believe it is important to maintain sterling and will vote against any proposal for a single European currency in the next Parliament."
90 **Nigel Waterson**, Eastbourne: "I am strongly against a federal Europe and would not want to see the pound abolished."
91 **Julian Brazier**, Canterbury: "I will fight against the abolition of the pound and its absorption into a single currency."
92 **Jonathan Aitken**, South Thanet: "I would hesitate for eternity before voting for the Single Currency and European Monetary Union."
93 **Nicholas Cambrook**, Yeovil: "We must have a referendum if we intend any further integration. I am against the UK joining a single currency."
94 **David Cameron**, Stafford: "When I was selected a year ago I said I would oppose a single currency. I will make that clear in my election address."
95 **Andrew Smith**, Cynon Valley: "I am an implacable opponent of a single currency and would vote against any transfer of gold and bullion to Brussels. I believe in putting Britain before Brussels."
96 **Angie Bray**, East Ham: "I would oppose a single currency and any further transfer of sovereignty to Brussels."
97 **Nick Gibb**, Bognor Regis and Littlehampton: "Our main aim should be to regain political and legal power."
98 **Sir Marcus Fox**, Shipley: "I cannot see any circumstances where I would vote for the abolition of the pound."
99 **David Porter**, Waveney: "I totally oppose a single currency. The mark of a soverign nation it to print its money."
100 **Neil Hamilton**, Tatton: "Opposed to a single currency."
101 **David Wilshire**, Spelthorne: Has come out against a single currency.
102 **John Wilkinson**, Ruislip Northwood: "Giving up the pound is unacceptable unless it is expressed by a referendum."

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Economic woe and loss of British citizenship spark discontent on South Atlantic dependency

St Helena fumes over 'dictatorial' style of Governor

By Joanna Bale

Smallman: says he sees no crisis on tiny island

AN UNDERCURRENT of discontent is running through St Helena, one of Britain's most isolated dependencies, after its Governor left for London amid complaints by residents over his "dictatorial" tendencies.

David Smallman set sail on mid-term leave shortly after protests in which a police van, a weather station and two other vehicles were set alight. The incidents were mostly caused by one man, and the Foreign Office yesterday said it saw no evidence of a concerted campaign or any anti-government uprising.

The remote South Atlantic island, the site of Napoleon's exile, has seen growing frustration over rising unemployment, currently 18 per cent, after the removal of the islanders' British citizenship in 1981. Matters came to a head last week when a small group of unemployed protesters embarked on an arson spree to demonstrate their anger with the Governor after the resignation of two members of their ruling council over government cuts.

When Bobby Robinson was elected to fill one of the vacancies as head of social services, the Governor refused to ratify the election and imposed his own appointment. Mr Smallman is believed to have objected to Mr Robinson's appointment because he was involved in a incident last year when an angry crowd, again protesting at government cuts, broke into the Governor's office and grabbed him by the tie.

Although Mr Smallman was acting within his constitutional powers, one of those who resigned, Eric George, branded his actions as "dictatorial government". According to Corinda Essex, St Helena's government representative in Britain, the Governor is on the island's only passenger cargo ship, *RMS St Helena*, on his way to Ascension island, 700 miles away, from where he will catch an RAF flight to Britain at the weekend.

In a ship-to-shore message, he said that he saw no crisis and would dissolve the council when he returned in six weeks' time and would supervise a general election on July 9.

Mrs Essex, who grew up on the island but now works from a tiny office at her home in Bristol, said that underlying the unrest was the issue of British citizenship among the 6,000 islanders who are fiercely loyal to the Crown, despite having free right of abode in Britain stripped from them by the Nationality Act in 1981.

She said: "When we had free right of abode in Britain many people came here to work and support their families by sending money back. Now it is difficult to obtain work permits and there are fewer than 100 islanders here, either studying or working."

Islanders are unhappy at the low rates of unemployment benefit, which can be as little as £12 a week. A job training scheme initiated in January 1995, allowing islanders to come to Britain for work experience, has procured only 35 placements in two years.

Mrs Essex said: "Although there have been some new jobs on Ascension and the Falklands, in MoD support services and construction, these have only been short-term contracts. There is no long-term security for the islanders. Many young people are demoralised by the prospect of never having a steady job. Problems with alcohol, petty crime and marriage breakdowns are growing."

Mrs Essex said the Government's £8 million annual grant was essential. The island's economy suffers due to its extreme isolation. It has no airport; its nearest is in Cape Town, five and a half days away by sea. The RAF airfield on Ascension can be used only by those on government business or working for the Ministry of Defence.

Leading article, page 23

Tuvalu flies flag again

Suva: After a two-year absence, the Union Jack is once again part of Tuvalu's national standard,. showing that the sun has not quite set on the tiny corner of the former British Empire.

Bikenibeu Paeniu, Tuvalu's Prime Minister, said it was restored by a 7-5 parliamentary vote last week. Kamuta Laatasi, the former Prime Minister who removed the symbol from the small Pacific nation's flag in 1995, bitterly opposed the change. Mr Paeniu said: "We are reinstating the independence flag basically as a tribute to the fathers of our nation who chose that flag in consultation with the people."

The parliament of the 9,000 Polynesian residents has restored the flag adopted after independence in 1978 — a yellow background with the Union Jack in the top left corner and nine stars representing the nation's nine atolls.

SYGMA

St Helena, where unemployment among the 6,000 residents is now 18 per cent and the nearest airport is more than five days away by sea

Frenetic Britain a culture shock for few given permission to work

By Joanna Bale

Essex: arranged for six young islanders to get jobs in Bristol

ST HELENIANS have been living and working in Britain for two centuries. Most send money back to their families and return home after a few years, although a few have married and stayed.

Since losing their right to British citizenship, they have found it increasingly difficult to obtain work permits. Fewer than 100 are in Britain at present, either as students or workers. Some spoke yesterday of having difficulty adjusting to the more frenetic way of life.

Priscilla Richards, 19, is suffering culture shock after coming to Bristol three weeks ago to work as a nurse in a care home for the elderly. She was among six young islanders who secured permits to work here after Corinda Essex, St Helena's government representative in Britain, met the home's owner at a recruitment fair.

Priscilla, who has never visited Britain before, confessed: "I really don't like it. Everything is so expensive. People are unfriendly and when I have paid off the £1,000 loan which I took out to get here, I will be going straight back."

Her friend, Donna Harris, 25, who is a trainee administrator at the home, said she missed St Helena but would like to stay in Britain. She said: "Priscilla is very homesick, but I have been here before and you get used to it. Back home you would not dream of walking past someone in the street witout saying hello, but here they think you are weird.

"I miss the warm weather, the beaches and the clear blue sea. I also miss the easy-going way of life. Here everyone is in a hurry — and they are so concerned about crime. I borrowed the boss's car recently and left it outside with the keys in the ignition, because it did not occur to me not to."

Andrew Dillon, 29, also a nurse, said: "We haven't been out to see the nightlife in Bristol yet, but I am astonished at how much it costs. It is £15 to go to a nightclub whereas on St Helena it is 50p to go to a dance. And even if you want just a burger here, it is expensive — £2.50 instead of 60p."

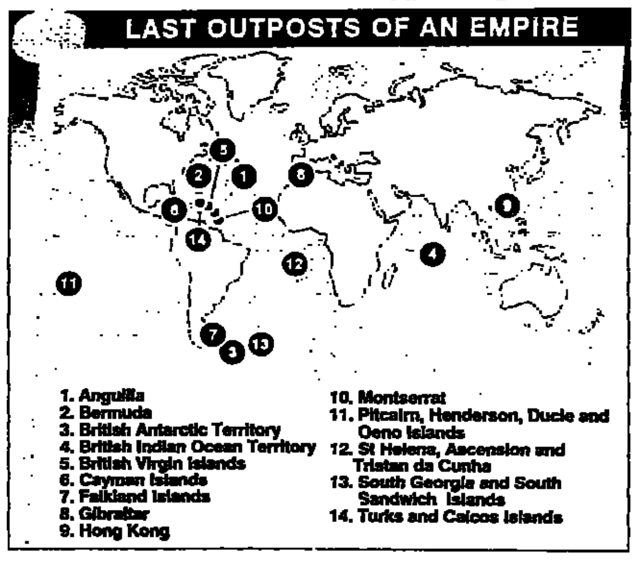
The nurses earn £122 a week — almost a month's average wage on St Helena — but almost half goes on rent. Janice Yon, 18, said: "We are all young with no families to support, so it is not too bad, and we are grateful for the opportunity to work when we would probably be unemployed and living on £12 a week at home. We all hope to achieve qualifications here which will help us to get other jobs."

All were scathing about the Governor who, they claim, cares little about the island or its people — a mixture of British, Asian and African descent. Miss Richards, of Asian descent, said: "The last one was better because he was married to an islander. This one is always on Ascension or in England and only mixes with the whites."

Imperial relics happy to be pink

By Michael Binyon
Diplomatic Editor

LAST OUTPOSTS OF AN EMPIRE



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4. British Indian Ocean Territory
5. British Virgin Islands
6. Cayman Islands
7. Falkland Islands
8. Gibraltar
9. Hong Kong
10. Montserrat
11. Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands
12. St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
13. South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands
14. Turks and Caicos Islands

WITH the handover of Hong Kong to China at midnight on June 30, Britain will be left with a handful of dependent territories scattered across the globe. Many are isolated islands relying on British aid and protection.

The 13 dependencies are all that is left of the British Empire, but none is likely to demand independence, as their total population is less than 200,000. Ruled by British governors and with Britain responsible for their defence and foreign affairs, most have internal self-government.

☐ **Anguilla:** Most northerly of Leeward Islands, colonised by English settlers from St Kitts, from which it sought separation in 1958. British military intervention in 1969 to restore order. Formally separated from St Kitts in 1980.

☐ **Bermuda:** Britain's oldest colony, founded in 1609, now thriving on tourism and international finance. Self-governing dependency suffering recent unrest provoked by independence movement and political attacks on the Governor, Lord Waddington. Referendum on independence in 1995 led to victory for continued association with Britain.

☐ **British Antarctic Territory:** Wedge of land on Antarctica and including South Orkney Islands, South Shetland Island — a land mass of 656,000sq miles. No inhabitants apart from five scientific bases with about 70 researchers. Sovereignty claims hardly relevant following international Antarctic treaty.

☐ **Indian Ocean Territory:** Uninhabited islands in the Indian Ocean, now important as naval base for Americans at Diego Garcia.

☐ **British Virgin Islands:** Discovered by Columbus in 1493, annexed in 1672. Administered by Governor of Leeward Islands until 1960. Representative government reintroduced in 1950.

☐ **Cayman Islands:** Three islands northwest of Jamaica, ceded to Britain by Spain in 1670. Dependency of Jamaica until 1959 when part of Federation of West Indies. Islands have boomed as offshore banking centre, with per capita income of $28,500, but sparking outside resentment of loophole status and accusations of money-laundering.

☐ **Falkland Islands:** South Atlantic archipelago as big as Wales, much in news since 1982 conflict. Permanent British garrison as tensions remain over continued Argentine claim to sovereignty. Huge development pressures on 2,100-strong population likely, with annual earnings of £22 million from fish licensing and likely vast bonanza from offshore oil.

☐ **Gibraltar:** Tiny isthmus of 2.5sq miles, with 30,000 population, ceded to Britain under 1714 Treaty of Utrecht. Vital during Second World War, although British military presence now almost gone. Long blockade by Spain and continued on-off harassment despite agreement to negotiate with Britain on Rock's future.

☐ **Montserrat:** Part of Leeward Islands, first sighted by Columbus and British colony since 1632. Mountainous and now threatened by erupting volcano which has forced evacuation of capital and southern half of island.

☐ **Pitcairn:** Isolated South Pacific volcanic outpost, famously settled by Bounty mutineers in 1790 and now with population of only 53. Annexed as colony in 1838 and now including three other uninhabited islands. Sea access difficult, Governor resident in New Zealand, and intermarriage a big problem. Main income from postage stamps.

☐ **St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha:** Volcanic St Helena once a regular port for ships, now isolated and impoverished with no airstrip. Mixed-race, 5,000-strong population largely dependent on Government, with Britain subsidising budget shortfall. High unemployment, with residents able to work only in Falklands or Ascension, where tiny island is used as British and American air base, BBC and cable relay station. Tristan da Cunha, settled in 1816, was evacuated in 1961 after volcanic eruption, but the residents voted to return in 1963.

☐ **South Georgia and South Sandwich:** Former whaling stations with severe climate in Antarctica, now uninhabited except for scientists and small garrison during fishing season. Separated from Falkland Islands after 1982 conflict.

☐ **Turks and Caicos Islands:** Part of Bahamas chain, former dependency of Jamaica. Chief Minister jailed in 1985 for drug offences, political tensions leading to inquiry and new constitution but renewed conflict with Governor in 1993 after attempted crackdown on drug trafficking.

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APRIL 16 1997

Troops run media gauntlet to take Albanian beaches

FROM TOM WALKER IN DURRES

THE Italian-led expedition to chaotic Albania began in earnest yesterday as more than 1,000 troops from France, Italy and Spain arrived by boat and aircraft.

Durres, the harbour town 20 miles west of Tirana, was the scene of media frenzy as networks from around the world clamoured for dawn images of Operation Alba — the latest international force attempting to bring peace to a slice of the Balkans.

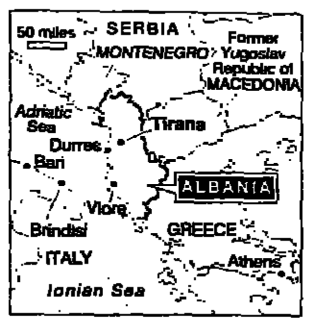
Against a sunrise broken by banks of dark cloud, the French transport ship *Orage* was the first in a queue of naval vessels into harbour. Before her final approach, 80 French "Jaubert" combat Marines, taken by helicopter to Tirana on Sunday, made a sweep of the port after Italian media-fed speculation of a guerrilla attack. As with much Italian media rumour during the Albanian crisis, it proved unfounded.

The *Orage* had to offload two landing barges, 20 more combat Marines and its two Super-Frolon helicopters before docking. But the biggest problem facing the 372 infantrymen and their more than 100 vehicles was the media scrum awaiting them; only to desperate cries of "partez, partez, à gauche, à droite, s'il-vous-plait, messieurs," could disembarkation begin.

As *Orage's* six AMX wheeled tanks roared into port, the Italian transport ship *San Marco* dropped anchor alongside. The Italians attempted a contrasting approach, marching a small and surly contingent of their 200 troops straight at the media cordon, leading to an undignified tussle with a camera crew.

In biting cold conditions, most Albanians chose to stay at home, but two vanloads of police attempted to liaise with the international troops.

"We are here in solidarity with the Albanian people," said Lieutenant-Colonel Gérard Dubois, a French military spokesman. "We hope to improve their life conditions." As for the troops' own quarters, he said: "We have no windows, no water and no electricity, but we are happy."

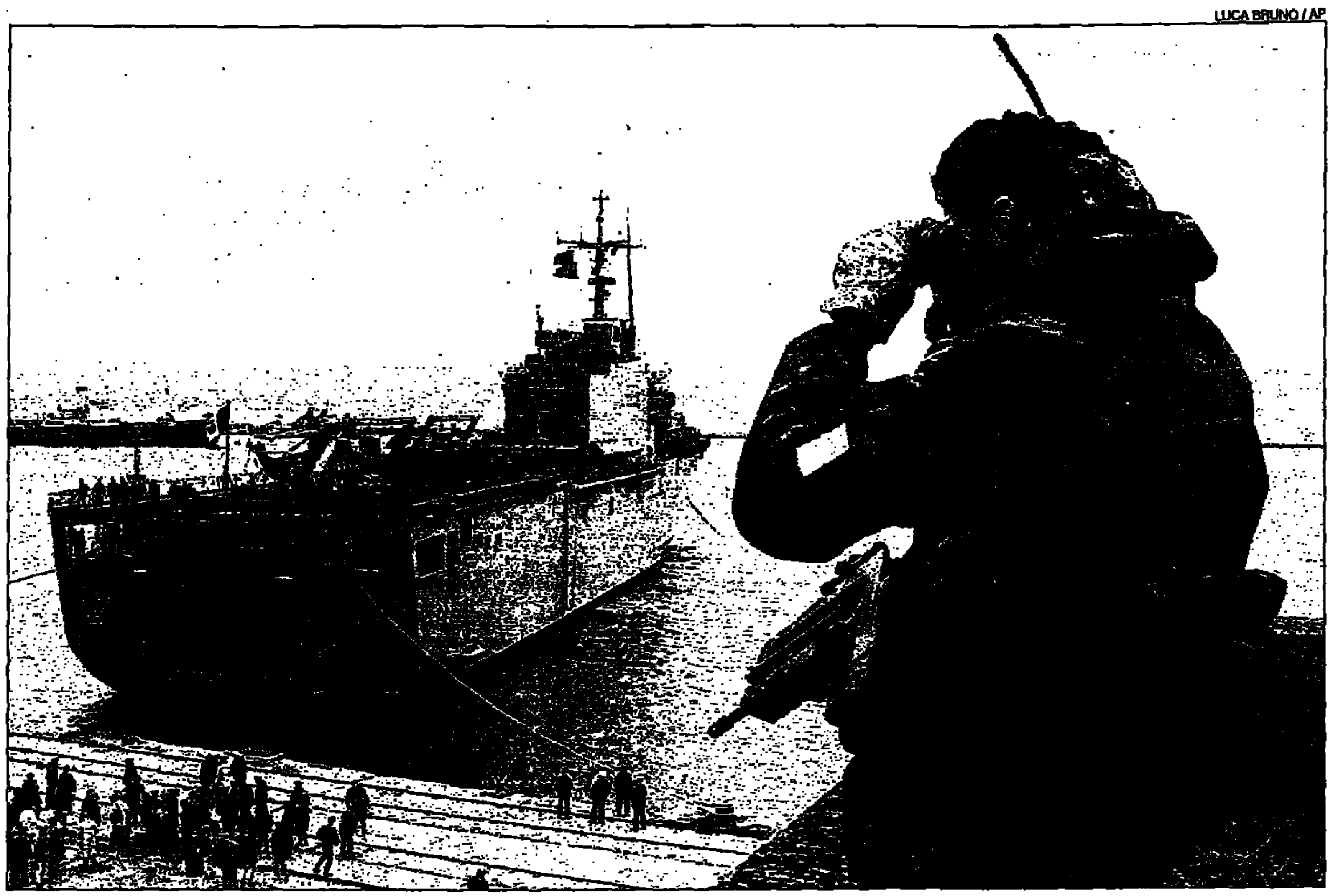


With most men and materials off the *Orage* by 8am, Durres had been virtually "secured" an hour later, the French taking positions around the harbour perimeter. Warehouses within are bare after the orgy of looting that gripped Albania last month, but observers were, nonetheless, relieved to see a substantial body of authority.

"There is no other solution for us," said Kujtim Shima, the driver of the port's battered fire engine — a gift from Britain — against the backdrop of gutted buildings.

While it is immediately apparent that little resistance to Operation Alba is likely, the troops seem reluctant to address the central problem affecting security in Albania — that most men are desperately poor, unemployed and often heavily armed. "We are under no instructions to take guns from people," said Major Hervé Gourmelon, spokesman for the French advance unit. "We are looking at the logic of perhaps buying back arms, but for the moment we are securing the environment of the port."

LUCA BRUNO / AP



A French soldier watches as the Italian troop ship *San Marco*, part of the international Operation Alba, docks at Durres yesterday

The Spanish transport ship *Hernán Cortés* was the third ship into Durres, landing 350 troops. By late afternoon most of the forces were either in their bases around the town, or at Tirana's Rinas airport, where military planes brought in 150 Italian paratroops yesterday.

In Durres, French and Italian tricolours were ubiquitous, and dozens of French light-armoured vehicles, or "frogs", were a familiar sight.

More ships will arrive in the coming days, including on Friday the French ferry *Napoléon Bonaparte* with 400 infantry, and the transport ships *Cap d'Afrique* and *Ariana* with more vehicles and supplies. Over the next six weeks a total of 6,000 troops will arrive — coming also from Greece, Turkey, Austria, Denmark and Romania. Their main task, to accompany aid convoys, will begin almost immediately. The United Nations' food arm, the World Food Programme, brought 400 tonnes of beans, wheat and oil into Durres yesterday.

"We were destroying ourselves and I see the troops as a very positive sign," said Selami Dakoli, the town's Deputy Mayor. "Thank God that we do not have the mentality that the foreigners are here to invade us."

He thought an arms buyback programme would not be justified, since most guns had been stolen. "The motive for people to give them back should be their conscience."

French manoeuvre for bank chief job

Reports that Paris has offered to back a German leader for the IMF in exchange for Eurobank domination are causing friction, writes **Roger Boyes** in Bonn

PARIS has made a last-ditch attempt to install a Frenchman as head of the European central bank by promoting the cause of Michel Camdessus, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund.

According to German press reports, regarded as plausible, the French had proposed a trade in which Paris would support a German candidate for the leadership of the International Monetary Fund in return for the appointment of M Camdessus.

Bonn, however, seems set on the appointment of Wim Duisenberg, a Dutch central banker who has repeatedly declared his determination to make the European bank work according to monetary, rather than political, rhythms.

Mr Duisenberg is due to take over as head of the European Monetary Institute this summer, and all the likely major participants in a monetary union — apart from France — have been assuming that he will continue when the EMI becomes a fully fledged central bank, some time in the spring of 1998. The EMI will next year make one of the most decisive contributions about who will be allowed to join economic and monetary union. Friction between Germany and France over the issue has been bubbling below the surface for over a year, with French bankers claiming a deal was struck when the EMI was sited in Frankfurt. Germany, they say, agreed then that a Frenchman would govern the bank. Bonn officials say no arrangement was reached, and they are deeply suspicious about the notional candidacy of M Camdessus.

The managing directorship of the IMF is not in the fiefdom of the French. The appointment is usually given to a European (Frenchmen occupied the post between 1963-73 and 1978-87), while an American runs the World Bank. The French did not consult the Germans before prolonging the IMF mandate of M Camdessus and, according to one German official, "there is no earthly reason why the French should regard the IMF as part of their nomenklatura."

The Germans have always insisted that the European central bank should be governed by a candidate from a smaller European country, to demonstrate that Europe is not being run by the Franco-German axis. Underpinning these reservations, however, is a more fundamental disagreement between France and Germany over the aims of a European central bank and the degree to which it should be politically influenced.

Camdessus: Germans deny agreement

For now, the EMI is sticking to its combined task of schoolmaster and pioneer. It demonstrated both roles yesterday in its annual report, urging yet more budgetary discipline on candidates for monetary union. The incumbent EMI chief, Alexandre Lamfalussy, conceded that there had been real progress in the fight against European inflation, in convergence of long-term interest rates and the stability of exchange rates. "But in many countries budgetary policies are still very unsatisfactory," he said.

Despite all efforts, most countries failed to make the 3 per cent of gross domestic product public deficit target in 1996. The EMI, he said, was particularly concerned about "the manner in which budgets have been consolidated". In 1994 and 1995, budgets were balanced by spending cuts, but "in 1996 the emphasis shifted away from reducing expenditure towards increasing income". He was also worried about the number of countries that were falling short of another Maastricht target: the total debt of 60 per cent of gross domestic product.

President Chirac, in an interview with the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* yesterday, sought to play down the tensions between France and Germany. "Our vision of the world is identical, and that explains our vision of Europe," he said.

☐ **Maastricht promise:** Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, emphasised that he would keep his promise to bring the German public-sector deficit down to within the Maastricht target. He was responding to a leak from the spring report of Germany's six economic research institutes which shows that Germany will miss the EMU goal and reach 3.2 per cent in 1997.

One of five economic advisers to the Government, Rolf Peffekoven, said the minister was being overly optimistic, and urged a delay in monetary union by between one and two years.

Tapie, serving a prison sentence, leaves work yesterday in Marseilles before returning to jail

Jailed Tapie exercises his outside right

FROM ADAM SAGE
IN PARIS

BERNARD TAPIE, the former flamboyant businessman serving a jail sentence in France, yesterday regained a taste of freedom by taking a job as a salesman.

During the day he works for Secna, a boat-building firm in Marseilles, returning to his cell at night. Tapie's friends point out that all French prisoners sentenced to less than a year can benefit from what is known as the *semi-liberté* system. However, to win day release, they need to show they have a job, something that only 4 per cent of inmates are able to do, given the high unemployment rate.

Tapie is serving an eight-month sentence on match-rigging charges. Once the owner of Adidas, the chairman of Marseilles football club and the Minister for Urban Affairs under the late President Mitterrand, Tapie is known for his ruses. Media commentators say his new post could be the latest, giving him a few hours of freedom.

The job allows Tapie to call on his experience as the former owner of France's best-known pleasure craft, the yacht *Phocea*. In the 1980s he spent Fr68 million (£7.5 million) on a refit.

US increases food aid to North Korea

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE United States last night increased by $15 million (£9.2 million) its food aid to North Korea as part of a delicate diplomatic bargain the Administration hopes will pave the way for a formal peace settlement on the Korean Peninsula.

Washington last night responded to a request by the United Nations World Food Programme for 200,000 tonnes of food aid for North Korea, a country reported to be in the grip of widespread famine. The new contribution, on the eve of critical talks in New York, brings the total of American food aid to $33.4 million since late 1995.

American officials have insisted that there is no link between humanitarian assistance to the Communist regime and efforts to start four-party talks between the Koreas, the United States and China. Without the promise of new stocks, North Korea said it would not consider any deal to take part in the talks, designed to turn the 43-year-old armistice on the divided peninsula into a permanent accord.

Pyongyang is to deliver its reply to the talks proposal in New York today. Earlier in the week the North Koreans accused the United States of working "hand in glove" with Japan and South Korea, and threatened to pull out of a 1994 agreement under which Pyongyang promised to stop its nuclear power programme.

The State Department, which has already accused Pyongyang of selling Scuds to Iran, has expressed concern about Japanese newspaper reports that North Korea is preparing to deploy long-range Rodong I missiles.

☐ **Tokyo:** North Korea yesterday commemorated the late President Kim Il Sung's 85th birthday by spending $120 million on a mausoleum and monument, according to South Korea's official press agency (Robert Whymant writes). Celebrations were staged to honour the former "Great Leader".

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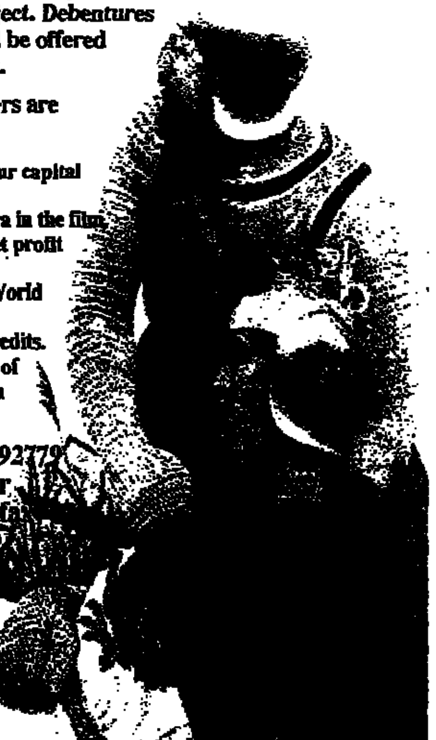

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Jailed banker is 'sick and tired of lying for Clintons'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE day after Jim McDougal was said by prosecutors to have provided substantial new evidence against the Clintons, their former Whitewater partner last night said he was "sick and tired of lying" for the President.

McDougal, who received a three-year sentence on Monday instead of the maximum 84 years, said he had decided to co-operate with Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special counsel, in part because President Clinton had failed to pardon his jailed former wife, Susan.

"I wasn't so much concerned that he'd abandoned me, I felt he'd abandoned Susan," said McDougal, who has claimed Mr Clinton once had an affair with his wife. "I just got sick and tired of lying for the fellow, you know."

In a nationally televised interview with NBC last night, McDougal hinted that he had given the inquiry information that could implicate both Bill and Hillary Clinton.

"I think they should be deeply concerned," McDougal said. "I think the Clintons are really sort of like tornados moving through people's lives ... I'm just one of the people left in the wake of their passing by."

He is believed to have reversed his original testimony to corroborate evidence given by David Hale, another Little Rock banker, that when he was Governor of Arkansas Mr Clinton was involved in soliciting an illegal loan of $300,000 (£185,000) for Mrs McDougal.

The President has denied under oath that he was present at a meeting in 1986 when the loan was discussed. Mrs McDougal, refusing to testify against the Clintons last year, chose instead to be jailed for contempt of court.

In arguing for a lenient sentence for McDougal, who was convicted last May on 18 counts of fraud and conspiracy involving Whitewater, Mr Starr has supported his new account. The prosecutor said the former owner of Madison Guaranty, the bank at the centre of the Whitewater scandal, had provided documents, witnesses and information previously unknown to the investigation.

The latest development has given new impetus to the inquiry and led Mr Starr to admit that the paper trail now involved his original mandate: an order that covers only three people, Jim McDougal, the President and the First Lady.

Last night's interview marked the end of a flurry of disclosures by the White House, the Democratic National Committee and, amid Republican calls for her resignation, the rejection by Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, of demands for the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate irregular fundraising by the Democrats.

The revelations were designed, in one damaging day, to combat a growing tide of negative publicity that has paralysed the President's efforts to negotiate substantive policy. The committee released 10,000 fundraising documents, including a memorandum to the White House listing big donors to be considered for senior posts and ambassadorships.

The White House also published a list of 56 contributors, including Jackie Onassis's former partner, Maurice Templesman, who have flown on on Air Force One in the past two years and a handful of others invited to the presidential retreat of Camp David in return for contributions to Mr Clinton's re-election fund.

However, attempts to dilute the renewed Whitewater revelations were unsuccessful. Among those included in the manifest of the presidential aircraft were three Democrats who had flown with the President and had paid large sums to Webster Hubbell, the convicted former Associate Attorney-General forced to resign from the Administration over his involvement in the failed Arkansas land deal.

Erskine Bowles, the White House Chief of Staff, was in Little Rock yesterday giving evidence before a grand jury about a further controversy: whether he and other Clinton aides had tried to steer "hush money" to Mr Hubbell as a reward for his silence over Whitewater and subsequent 21-month prison sentence.

Bowles: giving evidence in Little Rock yesterday

Bronwen Maddox, page 22

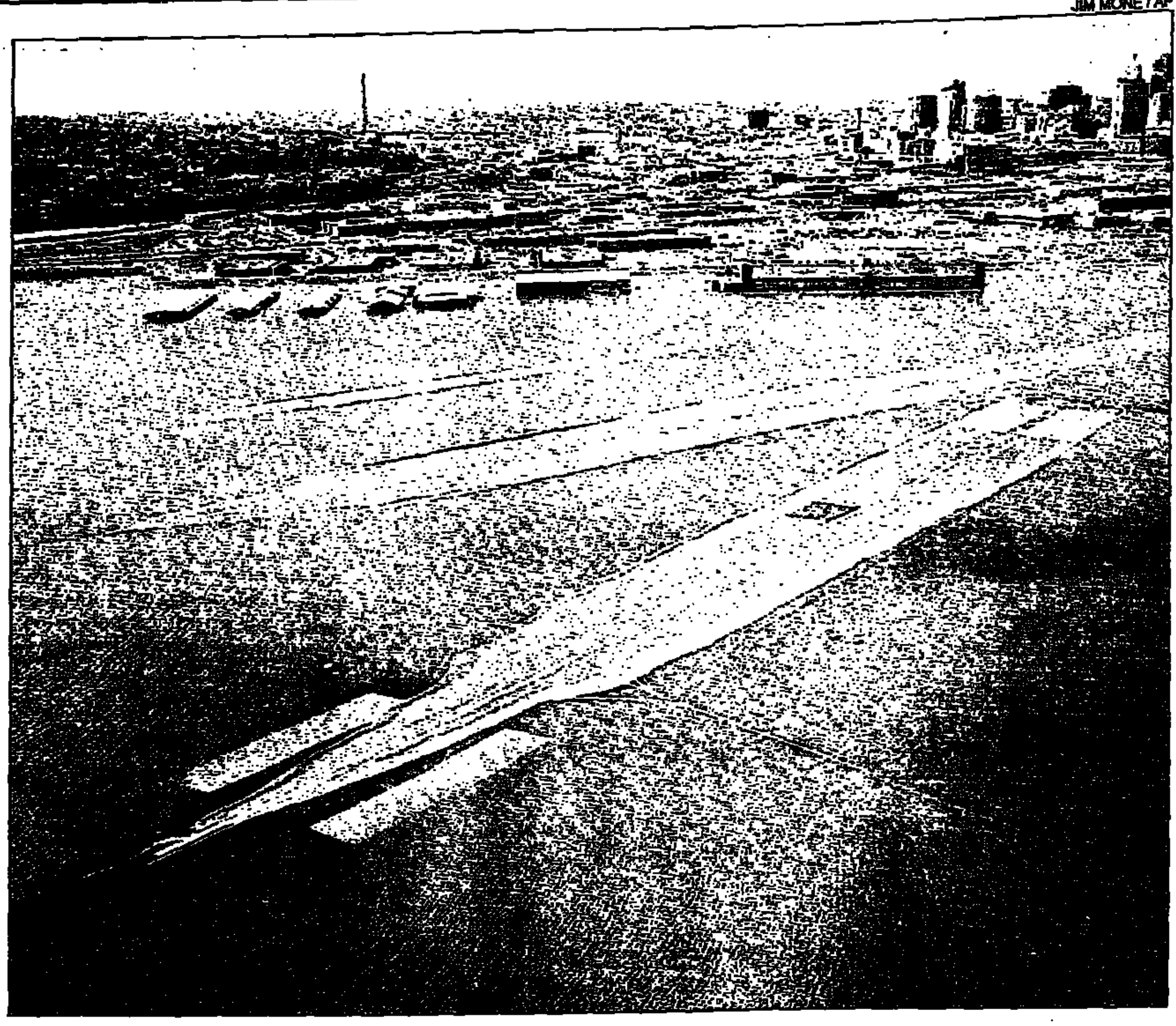
Harriman successor

Washington: President Clinton has selected Felix Rohatyn, an urbane investment banker, to succeed Pamela Harriman as US Ambassador to Paris (Tom Rhodes writes).

Speculation has long surrounded Mr Rohatyn, 68, a senior partner at Lazard Frères in New York and a big campaign donor to the Democratic Party. He was considered a possible candidate to replace Admiral William Crowe, the US Ambassador to London, but in recent weeks became the firm favourite to succeed Winston Churchill's famous daughter-in-law, who died in February while swimming at the Ritz in Paris.

Mr Clinton has 14 vacancies for ambassadors, including Germany, Canada, Russia, and Japan, and Mr Crowe leaves London later this year. James Collins, a State Department adviser on former Soviet nations, is expected to go to Moscow, and Tom Foley, the former Speaker, may be sent to Tokyo.

JIM MONE / AP



Islands in the flood

Runways at Holman Field outside St Paul, Minnesota, become islands as the Mississippi river floods surrounding land. Nearby the Army Corps of Engineers released more water from a brimming reservoir on the Minnesota-South Dakota state line, adding 6in to the swollen Red River and threatening an area about 45 miles south of Fargo already devastated by melted-snow floods. In the North Dakota city, the river passed 37.88ft — its highest point this century — yesterday. (AP)

Report attacks FBI for forensic errors

BY TOM RHODES

THE FBI crime laboratory, central to forensic evidence in the World Trade Centre and Oklahoma City bombings, made serious errors in both cases, an 18-month Washington investigation revealed yesterday.

A report by Michael Bromwich, an inspector-general from the Justice Department, recommended the removal of at least two departmental heads at the laboratory. But it failed to substantiate claims by Frederic Whitehurst, a forensic scientist, that technicians had perjured and fabricated evidence.

The document nevertheless detailed mistakes, including scientifically flawed and inaccurate testimony and insufficient documentation. It raised questions about why Louis Freeh, the FBI Director, had failed to address concerns about the laboratory when they were first raised publicly by Mr Whitehurst in 1994. The inspector said the agency had failed to confront the problems even earlier.

Mr Bromwich singled out FBI officials involved in the Oklahoma bombing in April 1995, America's worst act of terrorism, which killed 168 people. In what is certain to be used as evidence by the defence in the current Denver trial of Timothy McVeigh, the chief suspect, the inspector said the forensic team merited "special censure" for its reliance on unscientific and speculative evidence about the explosive used. The Justice Department also documented "serious and significant deficiencies" in the World Trade Centre investigation.

In response, the FBI said it agreed with most of the recommendations. Bill Esposito, the FBI Deputy Director, admitted "there was a clear and serious failing in not adequately detecting these problems and ... moving swiftly enough to resolve them".

Duchess sprinkles sugar on her prose

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN newspaper editors were yesterday offered their first look at a new weekly column co-written by the Duchess of York with an experienced biographer, Jeff Coplon.

The Duchess, still short of money despite her energetic promotional engagements, is being paid about $100,000 (£67,000) a year by the syndication department of *The New York Times* to lend her name to the column. In yesterday's first article she offered sorrowful memories — in places a little sugary — of Hector Barrantes, her late stepfather, and his Argentine burial.

On a recent trip to his grave, the Duchess "talked to Hector again, with just the crickets and aspens to answer back. I missed him more tragically than I ever had before".

Under the routine syndication arrangements, localised editing of the column, which is offered to provincial papers across the United States, is prevented. One suspects most self-respecting sub-editors might otherwise excise "tragically" in the above passage.

Similarly, the Duchess's prose might be answerable to allegations of a certain over-ripeness, as when describing the fecund flora and fauna of the South American landscape. She wrote: "A spate of rain cleansed the air" — the word "cleaned" might have sufficed — "and painted the land the hue of a billiard table. I could see for miles. Ostriches and armadillos and wild horses. I listened to the crickets and the silken breeze through the trees." Cleansing and painting? A mixed metaphor, perhaps, and "hue" is never as good as "colour". Breezes may be silken in teenage essays, but in newspapers they can blow without the adjective.

Yet these, arguably, are mere quibbles, and in many respects the Duchess writes more prettily than her rivals in the American syndication market. The column deserves a better take-up than the handful of titles which have so far accepted it. Her self-analysis is well suited to the readership. Recounting her trips to South America, the Duchess wrote: "My visits to Argentina, to its endless acres of Van Gogh sunflowers, remain imprinted upon me. They lent colour to my pale teenage life." Argentina, she said, is "my second home" where "a part of me — perhaps the best part — resides".

Punctual President handicapped by golf

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN MANILA

THE golfing victory of Tiger Woods in the US Masters led to President Ramos arriving late for the launch of a Philippines "punctuality week".

Mr Ramos, an avid golfer and fan of Woods, reportedly woke up at 4am to watch Woods live on television. But he went back to sleep after the game and overslept, the *Manila Times* reported.

He arrived an hour late for the 10am ceremony to launch the "punctuality week". Mr Ramos has declared April 12-18 "National Consciousness Week of the Imperative for Punctuality and Respect for the Rights of Others".

Foreigners and locals who have grown up overseas complain that Filipinos regularly arrive for appointments an hour or more late.

Woods, 21, made golfing history by being the youngest champion and the first black to win the Masters in Augusta, Georgia, with the widest victory margin.

WORLD SUMMARY

Clerides rebukes protesters

Nicosia: President Clerides of Cyprus yesterday condemned violent protests at a British military base when Greek Cypriot villagers stormed a police compound and freed two detainees (Michael Theodoulou writes). He said their actions could damage relations with Britain when Cyprus needed London's support to enter the European Union and solve the long-running Cyprus problem.

The trouble started when British bases police arrested a Cypriot for alleged assault.

Clyde's death shirt sold

San Francisco: A Nevada casino paid $85,000 (£53,125), double the estimated price, for the bullet-holed, bloodstained shirt worn by outlaw Clyde Barrow when he and his girlfriend, Bonnie Parker, were ambushed and shot dead. Barrow's belongings from his bank-robbing days with Parker netted $187,809. More than half will go to Marie Barrow, the outlaw's only surviving sibling. (AP)

Smoking law backfires

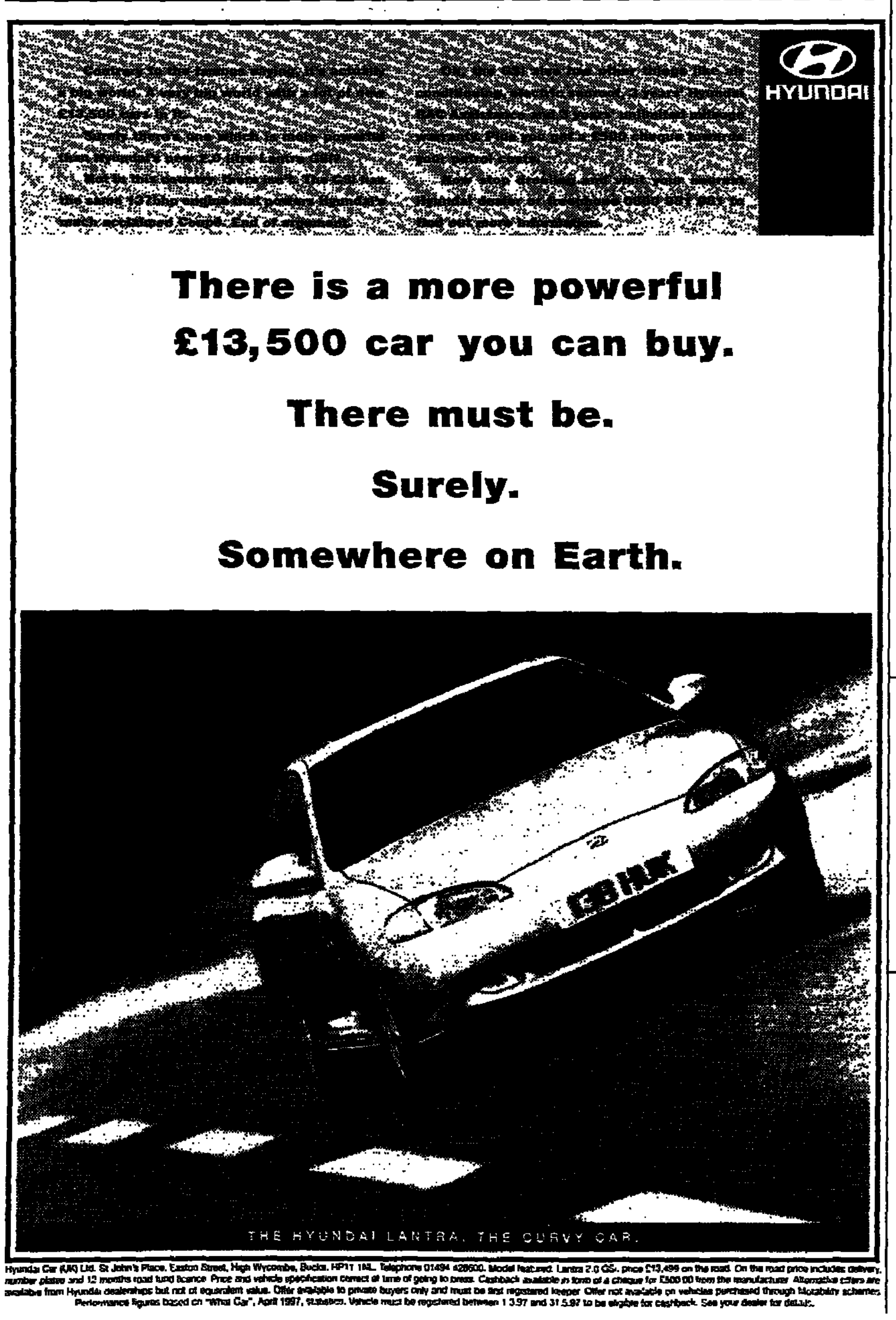
Toronto: Faced with widespread defiance by smokers and complaints from businessmen, Toronto's city council has scrapped a five-week-old bylaw that broke new ground in Canada by banning smoking in virtually all bars and restaurants. A new measure allows restaurants and bars to set aside a small area for smokers. (AP)

Poll challenge to Iran's men

Tehran: The daughter of a late religious leader is to be the first woman in Iran to run for the presidency, the newspaper *Iran* reported. Azam Taleqani, who is in her fifties, is head of the Islamic Women's Society and a campaigner for women's rights. Iran's clerical leadership is wholly male. (AP)

Patience wins $12m reward

Las Vegas: Suzanne Henley, who waited for more than an hour to play her lucky casino slot machine, won a world-record $12.5 million (£7.7 million). A man playing the machine offered to step aside for $20, but Mrs Henley, of Las Vegas, was patient. (AP)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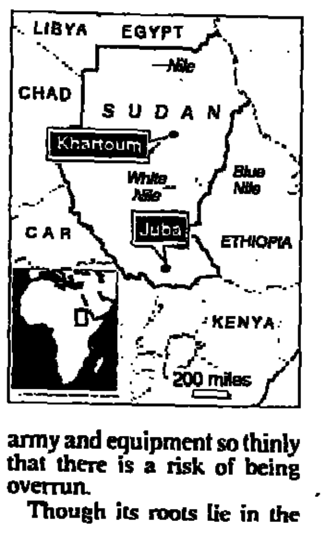
Christian rebels threaten to overrun Sudan's battered conscript army

From James Hooper in Yei, Sudan



AS THE war in Sudan enters its fourteenth year, the Sudan People's Liberation Army looks poised to capture the southern capital, Juba.

If Juba falls, the racist and religious conflict between the Islamic north and the black Christian south will be at a turning point. The SPLA would then be able to shift more men and equipment to other fronts where government forces are battered and demoralised. With three simultaneous and widely separated fronts to defend, Khartoum has spread its army and equipment so thinly that there is a risk of being overrun.

Though its roots lie in the pre-colonial Arab slave trade, the rebellion really started in the 1950s, when disaffected southerners formed the Anyanya guerrilla movement to fight for political equality. A peace agreement was reached in 1972, but a decade later the imposition of Sharia (Islamic law) saw thousands of Nilotic tribesmen join the new SPLA led by John Garang, a southerner and former Sudanese army colonel.

Since then the SPLA has enjoyed and lost the support of Ethiopia under the now deposed Mengistu Haile Mariam, been riven by internal dissent, won and lost battles against the Sudanese Army, and has regularly been written off by Africa-watchers. Experts who solemnly predicted its demise over the years have been as surprised as Khartoum by the recent rebel successes.

In October last year the National Democratic Alliance, an unlikely grouping of the SPLA and Muslim opposition parties ousted by the military coup of General Omar al-Bashir in 1989, launched an offensive towards Damazine in the east, followed by a second offensive in the north, which threatened crucial rail and road links to Port Sudan.

The National Islamic Front Government, desperate to prevent the capture of Damazine and the hydro-electric dam supplying 80 per cent of Khartoum's power, began conscripting university and secondary school students.

One prisoner of war, Yasir Sheik Idris Agib, 18, from Khartoum, said that after being press-ganged from school he received 15 days' training, much of it on his sacred duty to the jihad, or holy war. Each of his class was given a tightly folded page of the Koran encased in plastic, and a key, the first as a talisman against infidel bullets and the second, to unlock the gates of heaven in the event the first failed.

The Sudanese Army is clearly inadequate to its task of defeating the SPLA. Since the Islamic Front seized power, much of the army's professional officer corps has been replaced by Muslim fundamentalists with more faith in theology than tactics.

On March 9, after eight months' planning and intensive training of 15,000 new recruits, the SPLA opened a third major front in the south with an attack on Kaya, a strategic garrison near the Ugandan border. Within three days the SPLA had advanced almost 60 miles, killing or capturing more than 3,000 government soldiers and taking thousands of tonnes of ammunition and equipment.

Yei, the second largest town in the south, fell to the SPLA as the rebel forces continued their advance towards Juba. To the east, the government base at Kajo Kaji on the Nile was overrun and a second SPLA axis aimed northward. The sole attempt at a counter-attack by government forces was defeated 40 miles south of Juba.

A week later the SPLA destroyed a government brigade at Jambo Corner, seizing more than 30 abandoned tanks, and began advancing on Juba from the west. As the SPLA closes the net around Juba, aid organisations are evacuating their personnel while outlying army garrisons are withdrawing into defensive positions, hoping for relief from Khartoum.

It may soon be a forlorn hope. The one land route from the north, a deeply rutted laterite road, may already have been cut.

With victory within its grasp, the SPLA, knowing that the bulk of any available food will be used to sustain the army, is likely to ignore United Nations demands for emergency relief flights.

Yeltsin shrugs off Duma to give Kohl looted work of art

From Richard Beeston in Moscow

PRESIDENT Yeltsin is today expected to make a dramatic gesture of reconciliation with Germany when he returns to Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, a token work of art from the huge collection looted from Germany in 1945.

In the face of furious opposition from Russian parliamentarians and art lovers, the Russian leader will make a small but symbolic step towards resolving a sensitive issue in relations with Germany when he meets Herr Kohl in the German resort of Baden-Baden.

The disputed treasures consist of about 200,000 works of art, from French Impressionist masterpieces to the Schliemann collection of gold artefacts from ancient Troy. The works were seized by Soviet forces in the final days of the Second World War and their whereabouts were kept secret until they were revealed in a series of stunning exhibitions at Moscow's Pushkin Museum and the Hermitage in St Petersburg.

While the gift of one work will not resolve the problem, it sets an important precedent and will give hope to German art galleries and private collectors that they might one day get all the treasures back.

The daily *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* newspaper reported yesterday that the Russian leader had drawn up a secret decree which envisaged handing back all the looted treasures. However, any conciliatory move will reignite the heated debate in Russia, where a large part of the population believes the works should be kept as restitution for the destruction by German forces of Russian culture during the Second World War.

The Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, is due today to vote on a Bill proposed by the Duma, the lower house, calling for the trophy art to remain in Russia. If the Federation Council approves the Bill, Mr Yeltsin will have to pass it into law within seven days or refer it to the Constitutional Court.

Irina Antonova, the director of the Pushkin Museum and a strident advocate of keeping the art treasures, said yesterday that Mr Yeltsin's opposition to the new law was the result of "insufficient and inaccurate information".

"The Bill recognises that the displaced valuables that have been in Russia's keeping for 52 years are the property of the Russian Federation," she said. "I am convinced that Russia does not owe anybody anything."

Whatever the moral and historical arguments, the destiny of the artworks seems once again to be dictated by political considerations. Mr Yeltsin's unexpected gift is due partly to his long and close friendship with Herr Kohl, but it is also motivated by the fact that Russia needs all the friends it can get in the West.

After the Helsinki summit last month between the Russian leader and President Clinton, the Kremlin was left in little doubt that its influence over Washington policymakers and its prestige internationally is waning. The summit ended with the two sides "agreeing to disagree" over plans by Nato to extend its membership to former Warsaw Pact nations. Russia has given its tacit approval to expansion so long as its security concerns are enshrined in a charter with Nato.

However, the details of the charter are still proving a problem. Yesterday Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, failed to resolve the terms of the deal when he met Javier Solana, Nato's Secretary-General.

For Mr Yeltsin the support of Herr Kohl at this critical time could well be worth the price of a masterpiece from Russia's huge collection.

ADIL BRADLOW / AP

A Rwandan child is measured at a camp near the rebel-held town of Kisangani yesterday. The refugees are to be flown back home soon

Kinshasa paralysed for second day amid farce and danger

From Sam Kiley in Kinshasa

ZAIRE'S capital was paralysed for a second day yesterday by strikes and a failed "motorised march" planned by opposition leaders who spread a layer of absurdity over a dangerously volatile Kinshasa.

Mazanga Mazara, lying on a plank outside the home of Etienne Tshisekedi, one of the opposition leaders, explained that the anti-Mobutu procession of vehicles had been crippled by the absence of cars on the streets to steal for the event.

"It was handicapped. No one is driving in the city because they don't want their cars to get stolen," said the "president" of a local cell in the Union for Democracy and Social Progress, Zaire's main civilian opposition party. "But the city is dead anyway," he added.

On the second day of protests organised by the Union's leader, Mr Tshisekedi, students and schoolchildren boycotted their classes in Kinshasa. Most businesses remained closed in fear that a public demonstration against President Mobutu Sese Seko would spark a violent crackdown by police and soldiers which could spread into violent anarchy.

Apparently without irony, the Union sprinkled leaflets all over the capital on Monday, saying cars would be "commandeered" by striking students for the "drive against Mr Mobutu" and that their owners should ensure their tanks were filled with petrol before they were taken.

Mr Mazanga seemed surprised but philosophical that motorists who did venture out kept well away from Kinshasa's universities and colleges. "The motorised march was only supposed to be for the young anyway," he sighed. Mr Tshisekedi, who claims the title of Prime Minister but who has no Government, was yesterday "working in his office". And "so is his Cabinet", said Mr Mazanga.

Zaire has another Prime Minister, General Likulia Balongo, who was appointed last week by President Mobutu. Even Mr Mazanga admitted that Mr Tshisekedi was a "Prime Minister without function".

Although a politician who has a well-earned reputation for sleeping through crises and failing to harness the tides of Zaire's recent history, Mr Tshisekedi has managed to focus the desire of Kinshasa's five million population on getting rid of their President after 32 years and is likely to remain an important player in a post-Mobutu regime.

More than half the rest of the vast country, including all major cities in the interior, which generate at least 90 per cent of Zaire's national income, is now in the hands of the rebel leader, Laurent Kabila.

He received a tumultuous welcome in Lubumbashi, Zaire's second largest city. But some people were anxious yesterday that his Tutsi officers, many originally from Uganda and Rwanda, should not take government positions, and insisted the rebels should hold local elections as they had in Kisangani.

"Tshisekedi may be a bit of a joke, but he is at least purely Zairean. He will be a significant factor in the future of the country. We do not want to be ruled by Rwandans and Tutsis; we hate them," said a senior businessman in the capital.

Tug-of-war over Bonn's six-tonne doughnuts

From Roger Boyes in Bonn

A HUGE Henry Moore sculpture is in the middle of a fierce tug-of-war between Bonn and Berlin as the Germans prepare to shift their political capital.

Large Two Forms, which weighs around six tonnes, squats outside Helmut Kohl's Chancellery and is supposed to give some international glamour to the dull and dark aluminium offices in Bonn. Berliners are insisting that the sculpture be transported to the new Chancellery, but the citizens of Bonn want to keep it in place. Herr Kohl has not, as yet, expressed an opinion. The sculpture was acquired in 1979 by Helmut Schmidt who, unable to find a suitable German sculptor, travelled to Much Hadham in Herefordshire to look up Henry Moore. The DM500,000 (£180,000) bronze work is one of three — the others are in New York and Toronto — and vaguely resembles massive metallic half-eaten doughnuts.

It has become a symbol not so much of Herr Schmidt's aesthetic leanings as of his successor's physical bulk. Whenever a politician of generous dimensions visits Herr Kohl, such as President Yeltsin who is due in Germany this week, there are jokes about the "Large Two Forms".

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Thanks to the couple in Antonio's who were 'dismayed and alarmed' at the never-ending extra costs of buying a house as they polished off their pepperoni pizza...

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At last... a truly new dress

The recent fashion shows failed to provide any startlingly modern ideas. Now, at last, the designer Junya Watanabe, who started his own collection for Comme des Garçons five years ago, has come up with a really original dress, says Style Editor **Grace Bradberry**

LEFT: Mandarin collar apron, £925 by **Junya Watanabe** for Comme des Garçons. Diagonal pleat trousers, £400 by **Issey Miyake.** Both at Liberty. **ABOVE LEFT:** Dress, £645 by **Yohji Yamamoto** at Liberty. **ABOVE RIGHT:** *Embroidered pants,* £699 by **Junya Watanabe** for Comme des Garçons at Liberty. Wooden clogs, £95 from Russell & Bromley

Photographer: JULIAN MARSHALL. Stylist: Deborah Brett. Hair: Martyn Gayle for Martyn Gayle Hairdressing, London W1, 0171-792 5656. Make-up: *Helen Bannon. Model: Natasha Clancy (Select)*

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

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To apply collect four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* this week and send them with the order form appearing again tomorrow. The *form requires you to enter the code for* each shirt you require. P&P is free within the British Isles. The cost within Europe is £5, and £10 internationally. The offer is valid for orders received by Monday May 5, 1997.

CHARLES TYRWHITT

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SPWBLU Prince of Wales Blue
SPWNAP Prince of Wales Navy/Pink
SPWPIN Prince of Wales Pink
SPLWHI White Poplin
SPLPIN Pink Poplin
SPLCRE Cream Poplin
SPLAPR Apricot Poplin
SPLCOR Cornflower Poplin
SCINAV City Navy Narrow blue stripe on white background
SCIYEL City Yellow Narrow blue stripe on yellow background
SHABLU Hairline Blue very narrow blue stripes
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CHANGING TIMES

Shopping for enlightenment

JANE SHILLING GETS DRESSED

It has taken years of dedicated research, and the sums of money involved don't bear thinking about (if I'd put them into property instead of personal adornment, we would now be occupying a penthouse in Chelsea instead of a tiny, falling-down cottage at the wrong end of Greenwich), *but at last I think* I've mastered the Zen of shopping for clothes. The secret is: *never, ever go shopping with anyone else.*

Now, as the distillation of nearly a quarter of a century's uninterrupted love affair with fashion, *this may not sound* like much of a revelation. But consider for a moment how seldom one ever does go *shopping unaccompanied.* From adolescence to motherhood, one passes through the four ages of communal shopping, *with barely a garment* purchased without a kind of committee vote beforehand.

> Never, ever go shopping with anyone else

It all starts in *one's early teens,* when the answer to the question "What are you doing on *Saturday,*" is *invariably* "Going down the shops". For little girls in *towns all over* England, Saturday mornings shimmer with the promise of *what treasures the* high street may turn up. In a primitive form of the process that *later develops into* Getting One's Eye In, they troop in giggling gangs through Top Shop and Miss Selfridge, trying on every hat in the place, and testing a different colour of varnish on each fingernail.

This is Britain's nearest equivalent to the *passegiata,* the graceful European courtship ritual in which everyone parades up and down the main drag of an evening to see and be seen. Clutching their little bags containing glass *bead friendship bracelets, and* cropped mesh T-shirts with a shocking pink fake fur heart appliqued between the breasts, the *jeunes filles en fleurs* of the suburbs sweep haughtily homewards, pretending not to notice the waiting knots of youths who have assembled to admire them. The only problem is that pocket *money* doesn't stretch to anything much more substantial than a T-shirt. Which is where Shopping with Mother comes in. In your teens, she keeps a firm grip on the purse strings. No, you and she will *not be looking for a party frock* in Kookai. You will try Laura Ashley, where something suitable will certainly be found, *probably in needlecord. As the* years pass, your joint shopping trips afford your mother a rare opportunity for *disobliging reflection on all kinds* of topics which she wouldn't normally dare raise — viz, the fact that you are still not *married, indeed appear not* even to have a regular boyfriend, and could this be because you are *Letting Yourself* Go? She saw a very good diet in one of her magazines. *Perhaps you would* like her to send it to you. And while she is on the subject, *would you like* a subscription to Dateline?

Given the *volatility of the relation*ship it is amazing that anyone goes shopping with their mother, ever. *But* somehow we do. Particularly at moments of major stress. Why, when the elusive boyfriend has finally proposed, do we take our mother with us to buy the wedding dress? So that, sitting to attention on her spindly gold chair, with her neat little legs smartly crossed, she can breathe in sharply as we emerge from the dressing room, looking like a lace and crêpe de chine sausage, and say: "Good heavens, darling, *when I married your father* he could span my waist with his hands."

The only thing worse is going shopping with one's husband. In the first flush of love, everyone thinks what a good idea it would be to take him along to give one the benefit of his opinion. If you are very lucky, he is merely bored to tears and spends the whole time checking out the beautiful shop assistants and saying "Yeah, it's all right, I suppose", when you ask him if he likes you in a violet two-piece costing amonths' salary. *The really bad news is if he* starts to take an interest. Before you know where you are, he has mastered the only *subject about which he didn't* already know everything. He hogs your *Vogue,* understands exactly what Lady Harlech *does at Chanel, and discourses* about the relative merits of Tom Ford and Mark Jacobs until you think you might take *off your new* Hermès scarf and gag him with it.

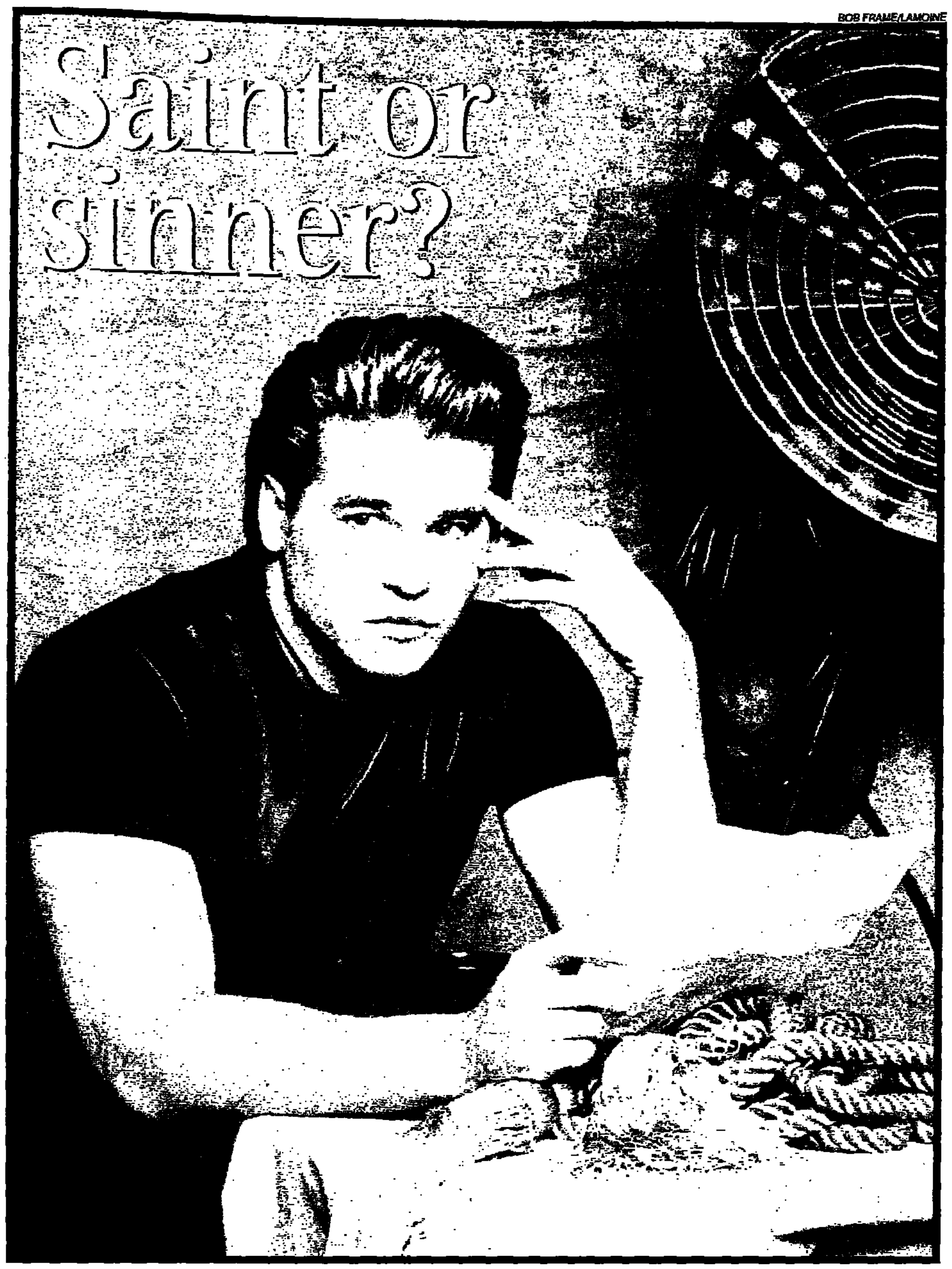
Partly to escape this, you ring up your best friend. What *are you doing on Saturday?* you ask. "Going down the shops," she answers, as she has for the past 20 years — *only now it's more* Edina and Patsy than Girl Gangs. You arrange to meet at Harvey Nicks for a little recce and lunch. The recce uncovers a ravishing Ozbek shell top with multi-coloured dots and a Calvin Klein frock of achingly austere perfection. What a shame that they cost, together, roughly twice your month's mortgage repayment. You trot up to the restaurant and have a glass of champagne. Oooh well, go on then, just one more. *An hour later, you teeter arm*-in-arm back down to the first floor, where the Ozbek and the Klein look prettier than ever. *Oh go ON, says your best* friend. You *deserve* it. Dammit, I *do,* you think, inscribing a wavering signature on the *credit card slip.*

The exhilaration lasts all the way to the bus stop. The repentance is awful. You drive your husband, your mother and your best friend into a collective coma of boredom with your plaintive promises never, ever to go shopping again. It is time you got a grip. The solution is simple. Always shop alone. Never apologise, and never explain.

L'AIR DU TEMPS
NINA RICCI PARIS

Saint or sinner?

BOB FRAME/LAMOINE



Mystical: "My parents used to take us to the desert so that we would have more sense of ourselves and embrace nature," says Val Kilmer

Deciphering psychobabble is usually **Noreen Taylor's** forte, but an interview with Val Kilmer, the new Simon Templar, leaves her bemused

Listen to Val Kilmer for a couple of minutes and you crave the simple joys of a party political broadcast. Any party. Any broadcast. Here's Val on his upbringing: "A spirited foundation that gave me a notion. The US is rooted in expansionism. moral prices that are active."

Perhaps he is a little more articulate about feelings. What makes you angry. Val? A long, sombre silence follows. After a moment. I prompt him. Injustice maybe?

"Huh, sure ... though very encouraged recently by people trying to move forward when it comes to basic prejudices."

The personal pronoun is not the only thing missing from his sentences. Sense also takes flight. In his latest film, *The Saint*, he risks his life to save a woman. Would he do the same in the real world? "Wouldn't be able to live with self if you didn't. There are elements of nature rather than a sense of well-being. Man's greatest downfall is when he places himself above life and people who live close to life don't."

Though I am adept at deciphering the psychobabble employed by so many American stars, Val's patois defeated me. He was in London to promote *The Saint*, the latest revival of Leslie Charteris's elegant English hero, Simon Templar. Never mind that Val bears not even a whiff of a resemblance to the debonair persona of the Charteris novels: think instead of Arnie or Sly with computer toys.

I avoid offering this frank appraisal since Val has a reputation for being difficult. The film industry buzzes with colleagues' complaints about his arrogance and high-handed behaviour.

Joel Schumacher, director of *Batman Forever*, described him as "the most psychologically disturbed human being I have ever worked with".

John Frankenheimer. director of *The Island of Doctor Moreau*, confided: "I will never climb Mount Everest and I will never work with Val Kilmer again. There isn't enough money in the world."

Until he opens his mouth. Kilmer is truly impressive. He has a row of shining teeth and smiles like one of those prewar cowboy stars. He is also deeply handsome.

Dressed in jeans and an open-necked shirt, he stands as I enter the room at the Dorchester offering me water and a cigarette. But I am wading in treacle the moment I ask a question. He continues to smile as I mention the gossip that labels him difficult.

"Abstract alleyways," he says. "Those are lies based on flattery. I work hard. One of those people was a director I turned down twice. A personal thing, you can figure that. The business community knows what happened. Audiences aren't affected." I tell him of another story, which is surely too daft to be true. One of his people supposedly phoned a theatrical costumiers to make an appointment for him and informed the assistant that Mr Kilmer would be fitted only by a girl who is size eight.

"Doesn't sound familiar," he says. "I have had the good fortune to have the same dresser in all of my movies."

And there are those who claim that Americans have no sense of irony! Why has he made comparatively few films? "In relation to my contemporaries, I have made few films. Unlike people such as Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise. Tom has made some courageous choices. He has power over what he can do."

I gently remind him that what I want to know is why. It transpires that it was due to a promise he made to his former wife, British actress Joanne Whalley, mother of his two children.

"I realised it was very hard to be a foreign actress in the US. She wanted to work and we discussed this in detail before we married. If she worked, I wouldn't."

The couple's eight-year marriage ended last February. He says that their two children — Mercedes, five, and Jack, two — are "what makes me happy. Love is large compared to the everyday things in life".

Both children live in Los Angeles with their mother.

"They are two unique little people. My daughter is very confident about what she's interested in doing," he says. "She's not spoilt like a lot of Hollywood kids."

He has claimed that theirs was the second most expensive divorce in New Mexico. Property division was not without its entanglements, either: Val claimed that two Impressionist paintings were missing on his return home, which surprised him, since he thought she wasn't that interested.

Shortly afterwards, he was heard asking someone on a film set: "Do you think this was cruel to my ex-wife, to give my son a drum for Christmas? A big drum, double-sided."

His own parents divorced when he was nine. Was he disappointed at being unable to break that mould? "Although my parents divorced, they set their differences aside. I'm grateful for that. I have joyful references as a parent, a very solid sense of encouragement of my own interests." But his childhood was not without its own drama. His father made and lost a fortune developing real estate. Brought up on the ranch that Roy Rogers once owned in San Fernando valley, he has described the Kilmer childhood as "Tom Sawyer stuff".

Yet one of his two brothers, Wesley, drowned during an epileptic fit in the family swimming pool when he was 16. His other brother, Mark, a doctor, claims that Val doesn't want him in his life any more.

At 17, Val was the youngest student ever admitted to the drama department of New York's prestigious Juilliard school. "Since then I have been looking after myself."

Was it anxiety that prompted his need to control what went on around him?

"No, I don't suffer from anxiety. It has taken me a long time to figure out calmness, a sense of well-being within nature. My parents used to take us on trips to the desert so that we would have more sense of ourselves. Embrace nature."

Now 37, he lives alone on a ranch in Sante Fe, New Mexico. His only companions are buffalo and horses because he feels "a sense of well-being in a rural environment. More in touch with nature.

"I've been privileged living with interests other than movies. I've learnt from it. Now I'm doing job after job." To date, the jobs have included playing Jim Morrison in *The Doors*, Elvis Presley in *True Romance*, Doc Holliday in *Tombstone*, and opposite his hero Brando in *The Island of Doctor Moreau*.

"I couldn't have asked for more. Filming in Africa. Working with people like De Niro, and Brando, whom I've admired from childhood."

Doing a passable impression of Brando, he repeats some advice on social conditioning offered by the great one: "I've spent 50 years trying to get over the first ten."

Kilmer is now writing a film based on the life of little-known English explorer and anthropologist Adrian Boushier, who died in 1978, with whom he feels he has much in common. "I am fascinated by other people and their cultures. I will play Boushier, a most compelling man, someone who led a life full of mystical experiences. I'm looking for a director."

● *The Saint opens this Friday at cinemas nationwide.*

Enid Blyton was always a subversive — and children know it

The secret power of Noddy and Big Ears

Nigella Lawson

I am not sure we need official sanction from the National Centre for Research into Children's Literature to tell us, but there it is: Enid Blyton is rescued from disapprobation and well-intentioned scorn and declared A Good Thing. Now, while I agree, broadly speaking, I don't know quite how much I approve of her hearty rehabilitation.

Yes, we all know how absurd it might have been to condemn Noddy and Big Ears as insidious purveyors of a racist worldview, or try to ban her books from schools and libraries on grounds of snobbery and sexism, but the point is, Enid Blyton was always disapproved of. The reasons may have been different in my day, but she was considered no less a bad influence.

In either case, the fear is ill-founded. I wallowed in the *Mallory Towers* books and the *Naughtiest Girl in the School* (I always found the Famous Five drearily suburban) and from that I learnt that reading was pleasurable, that reading was the best escape route into a rich, imaginative, private world, that reading was a delight and a solace and that books were the best company. From Blyton I went on to the Brontës, to Tennyson, to Aldous Huxley and Oscar Wilde. (Baldly speaking, these were my teenage passions.) In short: Enid Blyton taught me how to read.

But I can scarcely describe the scorn of my English teachers or the disbelieving envy of my schoolfriends, who were all banned from reading Enid Blyton at home, and would scrounge my cast-offs, devouring them with the greedy zeal of the *samizdat*-reader. Perhaps it is to the point that children like reading whatever figures of authority regard as rubbish. I don't know. But I do know it is wrong to depict Enid Blyton as the safe, smiling face of the golden age of childhood which has now disappeared. She was always considered subversive: she wrote for our benefit, not for parental approval.

What's more, her childhood was very different from the fantasy lives of her characters — as different as it was from the life of most of her readers. That was why we liked her. Too much of contemporary disdain has been prompted by the mistaken belief that Blyton was a realist writer chronicling an age of which we now heartily and politically disapprove. Nothing could be further from the truth. Blyton was a fantasist: she wrote to escape from her own life and understood that was just why children read, too.

When I was a child, there was a prim sense that literature should be improving: now it is meant to be relevant. But it is to misunderstand a child's thought processes — the way the imaginative mind works — to think that one can work out in advance whether a book can be either of these things. The contract between a book and a reader is always a private one, and needs no outside interference in the form of governessy finger-wagging. Anyone who thinks books serve any purpose other than to delight and (sorry to sound so mimsily New Age) to nourish should be kept out of the way of both books and children.

I am quite prepared to believe that a child from an inner-city council estate could find pleasure and meaning in an Enid Blyton caper: fiction works by reflecting our inner lives, not merely the surface of our quotidian reality, as Bruno Bettelheim understood when he wrote about fairy tales in *The Uses of Enchantment*. I haven't read Enid Blyton for some time, but I am perfectly prepared to believe that her characterisations are every bit as crass and crude as my teachers sniffily pointed out. We may be right to condemn adults who can never get beyond the literature of stereotypes, but for children it serves a liberating, transformational purpose.

All this may sound a very high minded way of defending Enid Blyton, and if so, I'm sorry. Nothing will stop children from reading her faster than to be told how good for them she is — and that's the last thing I'd want to do. In fact, writing this now has made me want to do nothing more than go and hide somewhere with a copy of *The Fifth Form at Mallory Towers*.

And I don't think one should apologise for one's low literary urges. When Philip Larkin was asked once about the consolations of literature, his interviewer, expecting a rather erudite reply, was surprised when Larkin said that when he felt really depressed, he helped himself out of it by staring into the bathroom mirror and saying: "I am Mrs de Winter now."

Compulsively readable though it was, there was something so dispiriting about the piece in yesterday's *Times* about teaching babies sign language. By some coincidence, I had just been thinking that, in a way, I found it sad that my nine-month-old baby was on the verge of acquiring language.

For the extraordinary thing is how much can be communicated without words. I disagree vehemently with the proposition that underpins the theory that it is an improvement to set babies speaking sign language, which is that one is frustratingly unable to understand what a baby is trying to say before it can talk. That couldn't be further from the truth. From a mother's perspective at any rate, it is rather the opposite: that the communication before language is acquired is extraordinarily total. It is right and good that babies do learn to talk, but in gaining language, this other, strong wordless means of communication is thereby lost.

I don't exactly lament that, although one sometimes can't help but feel rather mournful as one stage is given up for the next. Babies can express themselves perfectly well as it is: any communication problem is decidedly not theirs.

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Alan Coren

■ Let this be our motto: equal sleaze for all

The deadline was 4pm today, and I have just made it. Only just: it was nip and tuck, I had to park on the double yellow outside the town hall and hobble pitifully from my car on cannily borrowed crutches to appease the sprinting meter-maid, but she gave me five minutes, and I have slithered under the wire. It is exactly what my supporters *would have* expected of me. They trust me to slither under anything. That is why their lapels so *proudly sport my party* rosette and the emblematic little creature at its heart: let others dispute the ownership of mangy lion and toothless bulldog, let others dispatch chickens to do their dirty work, we have the lizard. Its voracious little tongue flicks ever in and out, its eager eyes swivel separately and endlessly, missing nothing, and *should* anyone try to apprehend it, its tail comes off in their hands, freeing it to scuttle off and slither under the nearest stone, to fight another day.

Yes, I have registered as the official Sleaze Party candidate for South Cricklewood. For it came to me, a week or so ago, that there was, to quote our party slogan, a gap in the market. There invariably is; that is what markets are for, *just as laws are for* loopholes. This particular gap was created by the outrageously negative candidacy of that white-suited sepulchre, Mr Martin Bell, who is standing, in every sense, for nothing, thereby not only disenfranchising the good people of Tatton but, far worse, plunging the less good people of Tatton into desolation at the prospect of ending up with an MP who would do them no good at all.

Well, it shall not happen in South Cricklewood. I have been out on the stump these seven days past, and I do believe I have *my finger on the electoral pulse. I know* what people want. I have, for example, not met one single painter, decorator, plumber, electrician or roofer who did not stand four-square behind our manifesto pledge to exempt from VAT all bills settled in used notes. Moreover, when I suggested that a typical parliamentary question from me might be: "May I draw the House's attention to the fact that Messrs Chas Foskett & Stepbrother are in a position *to rewire an entire four-bedroomed home*, plus remove all rubbish from site and make good, for less than two grand?" there was unequivocal backing from every professional doorstep. I have to say, too, that the twin planks of our road policy (privatised MoT tests at mutually agreed fees with an upper limit of £500 for certificates on death-traps, and sales of roadside camera negatives to be negotiated personally between police and offenders) *raised almost as many cheers with* motorists as our pledge to means-test NHS waiting-lists — by giving admissions staff *the chance to find out what means might* be going — did with patients.

Many of my prospective constituents were, not surprisingly, deeply concerned over the appalling crime figures, so I was delighted to be able to reassure them about the measures that we in the Sleaze Party would take to reduce them. Fraud, for example, is a dirty word, and we are committed *to looking for a much nicer* one, with a view to making fraud a very rare crime indeed, and there is also a very good chance that we shall be in a position to decriminalise corruption altogether, two proposals which met with immense enthusiasm on the majority of middle-class doorsteps; while working-class households were no less attracted by my party's view, both humane and practical, that portable office equipment, *frozen chickens, tools, overalls*, lightbulbs, roller-towels, *fan-heaters*, canteen cutlery, and any other items not nailed down should go with the job, as they so frequently tend to anyway.

I wish only that time allowed me to expatiate on all the other radical policies which the people of Cricklewood (and, I have no doubt, the rest of the country) wish to see implemented, concerning everything from the small beer of gas-meters and television licences to the large beer of fact-finding missions to Cap d'Antibes for all and the availability on free prescription of nubile minor actresses with their own premises, but time is what I do not have. Barely three weeks remain, and I haven't even bought my black suit yet.

Seeing, not believing

Tony Blair's sudden shifts do not convince me. The more he says what I like to hear, the less I like him for saying it

Simon Jenkins

I am going to break the habit of a lifetime and discuss my voting intention. This is the first election in which I have gone so long still treading water. The pollsters tell me there are thousands like me. We all appear to be suffering Syndrome '97. The symptoms are clear. Inclined to a change, we find that every time Tony Blair says something with which we strongly agree, our feet start running *away. Why?*

Consistency is indeed the hobgoblin of small minds. No man can have endured an honest career in public affairs without one Damascene conversion, preferably as early as possible. The finest opinions are the product of thoughtful trial and error. Yet Mr Blair's ideological wanderings during this election are becoming pathological. *He seems without any anchor at all.* I once knew a Mr Blair whose commitment to Europe was 100 per cent, whose belief *in trade union rights was no less* firm, who vehemently opposed privatisation, whose liberalism on crime and punishment was impeccable and whose enthusiasm for devolving power to local and regional bodies was sincere. I believe that, at various times, this Mr Blair himself thought himself sincere. I do not know this man today. I see someone quite different. And if I see *someone different today, I wonder* whom I shall see tomorrow.

The Labour Party has become a kaleidoscope of shifting sincerities. If the Iron Lady achieved one great task, it was in wiping Labour's ideological slate clean and taking away the chalk. Even old troopers such as Ken Livingstone and Dennis Skinner can only stand round gulping through *their gags. Mr Blair appears to* regard his past sins in the cause of old Labour as "spent convictions". They are to be erased from his record. Like Prince Hal at his coronation, he turns on the Falstaffs of old Labour and rebukes them: "Leave gormandising. Know the grave doth gape for thee thrice wider than for other men." He adds that devastating epitaph on friendship: "Presume not *that I am the thing I was*."

Did I, Tony Blair, once tell you that privatisation was a heartless Tory gimmick? No, it can be most efficient. Did I declare that I would never obstruct the workings of the European Union? No, it will help to save British fish. Did I say I would reverse Tory union laws? Well, in a manner of speaking. Was I liberal on crime or forward on education? Never. Was I really so *enthusiastic about councils or assemblies* raising their own taxes? Come, Mr Jenkins, where is your sense of history, or perhaps of humour. This is no place for the ghosts of pledges past. New Labour occupies the high ground of flexibility. Indeed it flexes the occupation of high ground. Not to mention grinding the flex of high occupation. New Labour is new words, new politics, *new meaning, no meaning. Heigh ho*, it's off to Downing Street we go.

As theatre, this is great stuff. While old Labour falls back in disarray, the hordes of luvvies, quickie-millionaires, think-tankers and journalists rush squealing to the trough. They see no policy. They want to see no policy. But they can smell power. New Lab*our is old Tories, old* Liberals, old Social Democrats, old bankers, old Jesuits, old bishops, old Uncle Tom Cobleigh and all. The spectacle is hair-raising.

Dignity might appreciate some explanation for this tergiversation. But Dignity is not *standing at this election. She* has vanished to a nunnery. The grab for power is never nice. Already the antechambers of new Labour are filled with supplicants. Their eyes are wide and their pockets are bulging with *billets doux*. Mr Blair's pledge to "clean up" the honours system will suffer the same early fate as did Mr Major's.

I search in vain for fixed points in this fog. One such point is the Conservative Party. Introverted, grey and exhausted, it stands coldly exposed. The Cabinet's illiberal meddling in every school, prison, hospital, neighbourhood, family even has become a ghastly terminal twitch. Yet the Tories have been efficient custodians of the economy. British commerce is not in bad shape. The Conservative manifesto showed *lingering traces of Thatcherite supply*-side reform, notably on pensions. Ministers may desperately need a rest and their party may need to see things from a fresh viewpoint, but they are entitled to a sound reason for being bundled from office. We ain't that broke, they say. Why mend us? There is *more* to governing Britain than a pretty face.

At this stage in my argument, a strong *Labour Party would put me up against* a wall and give me a stern talk. It would tell me that after 18 years this country needs a *spring* clean under a new contractor. It would warn me that I might not like this contractor. The gap between rich and poor, between good and bad public services, has widened under the Tories. The time has come to re*dress the balance*, however modestly. There is plenty of new money, it would say, but too much has been *splurged* by the Conservatives on defence, farmers, prisons, drug companies; not enough on public transport, the mentally ill, schools, inner cities. The balance of central and local taxes has been wrong and has wrecked *local services. Much* privatisation has been a shambles. The Tories told the country to swallow Margaret Thatcher's *medicine. Now the country must accept* Labour's repair job. Yes, this might cost some people some money. They can afford it. Give the other side a break.

I would accept that argument. I would admire it. Instead, Labour has worked up no antidote, only a welter of abstract nouns. *Mr Blair* presents a party yearning for the reins of power, aching for them, drooling over them, without so *much* as an *A-Z of change*. Mr Blair's "ten-point contract with the people" is pure glucose. When chided for this on *Panorama*, he was able to offer just one token of his intent. He said that he had modernised Labour, so surely he could be trusted to modernise the country. If he could cleanse that Augean stable, British government should be a doddle.

Mr Blair did not cleanse the Labour Party, he razed it to the ground and supplanted it with a *de luxe* leader's *Portakabin*. Old Labour will grow again because all parties need to grow. A party is both a government's infantry and its political rootstock. Mr Major's weak*ness over the past four years has been* his neglect of his party in the shires, the counties, even the suburbs. Labour will grow again from its old roots because they are those of its community of interest, the cities, the housing estates, the public sector *unions*. These interests *will have their lobbies* and their MPs. They will eventually make Mr Blair's life hell. I imagine that they *will press this cynical election as a brand* into his forehead. When he cries to them to desist, they will demand a price.

On this page last week, Ross McKibbin said new Labour was really old-old Labour. It was the party of Ramsay MacDonald and Philip Snowden, of kowtowing to the Establishment and ignoring the party's roots. But those early leaders fought elections pledged to change British politics in a *specific direction. The pressures of* office blew them off course. New Labour is "*in denial*" even before taking office. It is the Treasury party in exile. Apart from some referendums on constitutional reform, the core programme must be the oddest ever presented at a modern election. For *most* of its term of office, Labour *promises* to stick to the same spending priorities as the Tories. New Labour means caretaker for old Tory.

Mr Blair claims to represent a cen*trist revolution, but this is a pig* in a poke. Just as he can be impressively open-minded and realistic, he can be equally vacant and opportunistic. He is the most engaging of politicians, but he cannot instil trust in floating voters by saying only what he thinks they want to hear. The more he fixes audiences with his smile and parrots his pieties, the more they will head for the *door*.

For the present, I feel rather as poor Pickwick did when Mrs Bardell threw herself on him and cried, "Oh Sir, but this is most uncommon sudden."

Is anyone governing America?

Bronwen Maddox

on the paralysis of the President

For nearly an hour a day, a sweating President Clinton struggles through tortuous arm and chest exercises in the White House gym to boost his agility on crutches. A month after he ripped his knee tendon, he is said to be hugely frustrated at the physical constraints: Americans, who like their presidents vigorous, are also impatient for his recovery.

But although a crippled President is a powerful metaphor, the injury is hardly the cause of the paralysis gripping Washington. Apart from postponing and curtailing a trip to Latin America, *Mr Clinton's physical* condition has had little practical effect. Instead, the machinery of the White House and Capitol Hill has been halted by the campaign finance scandals and the ideological rifts in the Republican Party.

The extent of the paralysis is astounding. The budget apart, the *White House* has put no other important legislation to Congress nor, after almost 100 days, has *Congress initiated important* bills. This score sheet falls dramatically short of Mr Clinton's detailed programme for his second term.

By far the greatest brake on the President has been scandal. Above all, it is Whitewater, the Arkansas-based scandal that dominated his first term, which continues to throw up news damaging to the President. On Monday night, Jim *McDougal, the Arkansas colleague of* the First Family who was convicted in May on Whitewater charges, an*nounced on television* that he was "sick and tired of lying" for the President. And there is still no explanation of why Asian companies paid $400,000 to Webster Hubbell, one of Mr Clinton's closest Arkansas friends — who was also convicted over Whitewater.

By comparison, the row over fundraising in last year's election has yielded no single damning fact, al*though it has consolidated the image of a* President importing the incestuousness of his home town's political life into *Washington*. But whether or not those scandals prove substantive, they are hobbling the President.

For the past two weeks, Mr Clinton has been trying to "punch through" the stories by launching small, uncontroversial domestic policies, but with little success. Coverage of his offering on Monday — a move to discourage consumers from buying goods produced in *foreign sweatshops — was, for instance*, eclipsed by the furore over Mr McDougal's comments. Nor has Mr Clinton's second tactic — emphasising foreign policy — had much success. Last week a belligerent Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, shrugged off his attempt to discourage Israel from building in East Jerusalem. And the apparent successes abroad of Mr Clinton's first term, Haiti and the Irish negotiations, are unravelling or stalled.

Most seriously, Mr Clinton now looks *vulnerable over the two foreign issues* which will dominate this summer: whether China's "most favoured nation" trading status should be reaffirmed, and whether the North American Free Trade Area pact should be extended. Mr Clinton's plan to include Chile in Nafta now looks a non-starter.

The impotence of the White House is matched by that of Mr Gingrich, two miles away on Capitol Hill. His supporters say that his recent "tough talking" trip to China helped to repair some of *the damage to his stature, but his hold* on the Speaker's office remains in doubt, with conservatives and tax-cutting enthusiasts suspicious that he is no longer promoting their views.

Hobbling the President and the Speaker would be enough to bring Washington to a standstill, but a third factor has now *compounded the problem: Mr Gore's fear that* he will be tainted by the Clinton scandals, and that the Democratic nomination for 2000 will *slip through* his grasp. Most of all, he fears Richard Gephardt, leader of the Democratic minority in the House and champion of old-style liberal Democratic policies. In a bid to usurp Mr Gephardt's territory, Mr Gore is starting to back Old *Democrat policies such as union rights;* in doing so, he is jeopardising the precarious consensus which Mr Clinton's conservative New *Democrat* philosophy had achieved.

Stepping back from this tableau of immobile figures, it is possible to blame some of the problem on prosperity. After a prolonged economic boom, companies are flush with money to shower on politicians, and despite some Americans' best efforts to portray China as a looming threat, there is no external enemy to compare with the Soviet Union of the Cold War. America is more easily governed in a crisis.

For the past few years, even in the absence of an indisputable emergency, Mr Clinton and Mr Gingrich have both *managed to energise* government by force of personality. Each had a philosophy that bridged the ideological splits in his *party, so enabling the* passage of legislation. With both in a politically injured state, the splits are gaping.

Later this summer, when Mr Clinton's leg is out of bandages, Americans will no doubt once again be treated to pictures of their President riding horses and swinging golf clubs. But they will not see an active Presidency — or Congress — until both parties find ways to bridge their widening divisions. Unfortunately for the President's and *the Speaker's* dreams of leaving memorable legacies, those conditions may not be met until the next century.

DIARY

Muzzled

THE BULLDOG adopted by Tony Blair and his party for their latest political broadcast is unlike*ly to prosper* under a new *Labour* government. Bulldog breeders claim that the Labour Party has signed up to a European Council convention that would outlaw Fitz, the sturdy canine star of the broadcast, because he is inbred and mis-shapen.

Under the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals, the characteristics which give the bulldog its Churchillian demeanour would be banned from breeding programmes.

Its "markedly folded skin", its snub nose and protruding bottom teeth would have to go, along with the long ears of the cocker spaniel, the abnormally positioned legs of *the bassett hound and the protrud*ing eyes of the King Charles spaniel. In all, some 100 breeds of *dog and cat are under threat from* the treaty which would be ratified by a Labour government.

"I'd say that the Labour Party has shot itself in the foot," says Ginette Elliott, bulldog breeder and secretary of the Council for Docked Breeds. "Those spin-doctors with their great ideas don't know what's going on in their own party."

Elliot Morley, MP, Labour's *spokesman on pets, said in February*: "We are committed to the European Convention for the *Protection of Pet Animals in principle*." The Tories are howling with delight: "We shall be expecting a U-turn on Labour's bulldog policy before the day is out." Yesterday, Labour was indeed promising a safe future for the breed.

Bully for you

● *The launch in London of Alain de Botton's new novel,* How Proust Can Change Your Life, *carried the theme a little too far for most guests on Monday night. While the Proustian canapés of madeleines (the Rive Gauche's answer to the fairy cake) were perfectly acceptable, the wine was corked and undrinkable. "We know Proust lived in a cork-lined study, but really . . ." spluttered one guest, who remained unhappily sober.*

Falling off

IN *Stratford-upon-Avon*. Susannah York has taken a tumble during rehearsals for *Hamlet*. Making a spirited go of Gertrude with the Royal Shakespeare Company, she stepped confidently but unwittingly off the stage into the auditorium and cracked her heelbone, which means she's out of action.

"It's desperately inconvenient," wails the RSC. "We've just three weeks to go before we open and it will be very difficult to find anybody of Miss York's calibre. We're urging all Shakespeareans to step forward."

But not too hastily.

Laying off

THE Prime Minister has sensibly avoided canvassing outside one company in his constituency for which he predicted a fabulous future two years ago.

"It's a pity his bite's not as fierce as Dame Angela's"

Fired by the occasion in March 1995 when he opened the £16 million turbine manufacturer, he described Peter Brotherhood Ltd as "an immense success" and "one of the best and most excellently equipped factories I have ever seen". He added: "The future *ahead of you is very bright.*" Two years on, the company has cut its workforce of 325 by nearly 40 per cent — *last week alone, it proposed* axeing 70 jobs.

● *Election fatigue may have set in, but the political manifestos nevertheless made last week's bestseller lists. Leading the three, at number 55 in the Whitaker Booktrack list, is the Labour Party manifesto; the Conservatives come in at number 57; and the Liberal Democrats are at 60.*

Soft line

THAT SOFT-FOCUS picture of the Prince of Wales's friend Camilla Parker Bowles, taken by Sir Geoffrey Shakerley *on behalf* of the National Osteoporosis Society, brings to mind the official "arrival" of her great-grandmother Alice Keppel, the mistress of Bertie, Prince of Wales who became Edward VII.

Alice and Violet Keppel

It was a good three years after she had started walking out with Edward that she consented to appearing "officially" in the journals of the day. My picture, which adorned the cover of *Country Life* in 1899 was no papparazzi-snatched shot. Rather, it was set up with the knowledge and approval of the Prince, so as to confer respectability on the mistress of the future *monarch — just as* Sir Geoffrey's portrait apparently attempts to do this week.

P·H·S

[illegible]

BRITISH BULLDOGS

Dame Angela's stand does democracy a double service

Labour last night tried to appropriate Britain's bulldog spirit but it is in the Conservative Party that the terriers are off the leash. The party's candidates, with Dame Angela Rumbold at their head, are outbidding each other in their opposition to a European single currency. They may be happy for their leaders to negotiate but on their own account they have already decided. The Opposition says that it is delighted by the Tory candidates' open defiance of John Major's "wait and see" policy. They see this rebellion as just the latest humiliation visited on Mr Major by his own side. The voters may see it rather differently.

The electorate has been denied direction on Europe by two party leaders so far determined to keep every option open. Tony Blair taunts Mr Major for framing his policy on a single currency to appease opposing Tory factions. But the Prime Minister can afford to ignore an accusation that he knows is undermined by the Labour leader's own actions. If Mr Major's policy is weak, then why is it also Mr Blair's policy? By imitating Mr Major's indecision Mr Blair is, in effect, flattering the Prime Minister's judgment.

The voters are unlikely to be so impressed by the leaders' refusal to say where they stand on the most important decision this country has confronted for decades. Faced with this collective dumbness the voters may very well prefer the candour of Dame Angela and her colleagues. By their actions they are helping to crystallise the choice at this election. Despite the fact that the election has become a presidential contest, the real choice is still the choice that individual voters make about individual candidates. Even as the leaders converge on the treacherous middle ground, their supporters are colonising firmer terrain.

Since the fall of Margaret Thatcher, through the watershed White Wednesday and the traumatic ratification of the Maastricht treaty, the Tory party has been evolving into a more sceptical creature. Dame Angela's stand may mark the final transition in the party's development from poodle to boxer. The process has been accelerated by the replacement of a generation inclined to acquiesce in integration with one prepared to fight. That development can only be reinforced by the Referendum Party's targeting of the dwindling band of Conservative Euro-enthusiasts.

Robust and unapologetic Euroscepticism is no longer, it appears, restricted to the men in "flapping white coats"; it now extends to the women in blue Jaeger suits. As many as 167 Tory candidates in winnable Conservative seats have signalled their opposition to EMU. By their actions they mock the vacuum which passed for a policy with both party leaderships. They also give the voters a choice. Rather than acting as silent accomplices in the smuggling of sovereignty they have stood up to be counted.

Counting them with perhaps more concern than it might admit to should be the Labour leadership. For all the studied ambiguities of Mr Blair and the modulated doubts of Robin Cook, the Labour Party is in its heart altogether more enthusiastic for Europe than the Tories. Just as the Tory party has seen attitudes change with the generations, so has Labour. Labour's sceptics are the day before yesterday's men. Mr Blair may proclaim his patriotism but the most committed modernisers, from Gordon Brown to Peter Mandelson, a vice-president of the European Movement, are also committed integrationists.

It is an unhappy commentary on Mr Major's faith in the durability and credibility of a wait-and-see policy that he has had it so derisively flouted by his troops. It is hard to see how it reflects well on his leadership that the Tories in the country have chosen to fight a different battle from the one he wished to lead them into. Yet for voters increasingly exasperated by leaders who argued over change and trust and could not be trusted to face up to the greatest change of all, Dame Angela and her colleagues provide a reason to rally to one flag. They are doing democracy a double service, setting their face against its erosion and providing a real choice now, when it is most needed.

PARENTS AND POLITICS

When is hypocrisy not hypocrisy?

In this humid electoral atmosphere, the April showers have been of personal abuse. Voters claim to be tired of the insults, some of which are indeed offensive and gratuitous. But others are offensive and justified. How should politicians and public draw the line between the two?

Politicians can rightly be judged on their record: it is, for instance, a sign of John Major's weak leadership that he could not stand up to Kenneth Clarke on the single currency. To call the Prime Minister "weak" might not be polite but it can be justified. It is also fair to accuse Tony Blair of "flip-flopping" over privatisation: so recent was his conversion that it did not even make Labour's manifesto. But to call him "phoney" for not much better reason than that it rhymes with "Tony" is less an act of criticism and more a piece of abuse.

The most recent Tory taunt is of hypocrisy. Both Mr Major and Michael Heseltine have called Mr Blair a hypocrite for sending his sons to a grant-maintained school outside his London borough. Yesterday, Mr Heseltine took the attack into the outer reaches of hyperbole. Because the Labour leader went to public school, he said, he could not possibly understand the state system. Mr Heseltine, a public schoolboy himself, went on to say that Mr Blair wanted to deny parents the choice that his own parents had had, to send him to private school.

The latter charge is nonsense. Labour has no plans to prevent children going to private schools. Nor does Mr Blair's own education have significant bearing on his understanding of the state system: if that were so, Mr Heseltine would be no better informed. Memories of the state system 30 or 40 years ago are not much guide to understanding it today; it is much more useful for politicians to experience the system as parents. Mr Blair, unlike Mr Heseltine and most of his Cabinet colleagues, does so: indeed if he wins power, he will be the first Prime Minister to have children at state schools while he is in Downing Street.

In the old days, Labour politicians often educated their children privately. Now the argument is over which type of state school they should choose. The Conservative charge against Mr Blair is that he is sending his children to a type of school that he plans to abolish. Yet Labour has no intention of abolishing either grant-maintained schools or church schools. And, as Mr Blair pointed out yesterday, there is a long tradition of parents sending their children to religious schools in different boroughs.

A trickier case is that of Harriet Harman. She sent her son to a selective grammar school soon after the Shadow Education Secretary, David Blunkett, had said "no selection under a Labour government". At the time, it was a blatant breach of party policy, though now the line has softened: Labour says that it will abolish existing grammar schools only if a petition and ballot of local parents demand it.

Should parents who are also politicians choose a school according to their party's current policy or what best suits their child? Ms Harman put maternal instinct ahead of her career and tapped public sympathy in the process. She may have been called hypocritical and she will suffer in the Labour Party for her actions. But at least she will not regret on her deathbed a decision to sacrifice her child's success for her own.

WORK FOR ST HELENA

One way for Britain to right an ex-imperial wrong

The crime of setting a police transit van on fire would hardly merit the attention of a local reporter in Birmingham or Belfast. But when this happens in a community as remote, peaceful and law-abiding as St Helena, Foreign Office officials should take note. For though the incident may be an isolated act of arson, there is no mistaking the rumbling discontent on the volcanic outcrop in the South Atlantic. St Helena, Napoleon's final place of exile and death, is going through troubled times. Islanders are almost entirely dependent on diminishing Government hand-outs; opportunities for work overseas are shrinking; and recent resignations from the local council and a spat with the British Governor have raised local hackles and tempers.

The sun set on the British Empire a generation ago. But in the 13 pink dots scattered across the world, all that is left (excluding Hong Kong) of an imperial past most Britons have long forgotten, the fading rays are still the only warmth that 170,000 overseas subjects know. Many fear that the warmth is now cooling, as Britain seeks to unburden itself of its residual responsibilities.

For the Queen's 6,000 loyal subjects on St Helena, the nearest mainland is more than a thousand miles away; the nearest commercial airport is in Cape Town. The only connections to the outside world are the ships that sail four times a year to Cardiff and nine times to South Africa. There is virtually no private industry, no regional market and no outside investment. About 500 tourists arrive a year: some to look at Napoleon's two immaculately preserved houses.

A month ago Sir Nicholas Bonsor called a conference in London to look at ways of boosting investment in St Helena. The figures are certainly depressing: the island imports £4.7 million worth of goods a year, and exports a mere £145,000. Britain has just announced a £26 million aid package over the next three years: a higher amount per head than to any other territory. It may help; but hand-outs are not what the islanders want. They ask only to be allowed to come to Britain to seek temporary work.

Until the 1981 Nationality Act, they were able to earn good money in Britain; now they can find employment only in the Falklands or on Ascension. Allowing in a few hundred St Helenans, many willing to fill the vacancies in care work, is the least Britain can do to rectify an injustice that was made solely for fear of setting a precedent for Hong Kong. Britain still has world responsibilities; it owes a decent generosity to the subjects whose lives it still controls.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN ***Telephone*** **0171-782 5000**

Questions raised by Labour policies

From the Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Sir, Halfway through the campaign some very big questions about Labour's economic policies remain unanswered by Gordon Brown. Soundbite slogans are wearing a bit thin. May I use the courtesy of your columns to try again to get answers?

1. Does he accept that a windfall tax on the privatised companies will be paid for by millions of customers, employees and shareholders? How can a once-off windfall tax pay for a continuing make-work programme?

2. Mr Blair and Mr Brown use a soundbite which says: "The Conservatives have doubled the national debt." They take the base year of 1990, when the national debt was at its lowest since 1915. Twice a low number is still a low number, in historical terms. Britain's stock of debt is, for example, lower than Germany's or Japan's.

The purpose of this soundbite is to say "the public finances are in a mess". If so, do Labour think they ought to put up taxes to bring debt down faster than we are? If "yes" — which taxes? If "no" — they must stop using their soundbite.

3. Releasing local authorities' receipts increases public spending and borrowing. So Labour would worsen the debt position by this policy — unless they propose to cut other spending or put up taxes. Will they do so, or will they worsen the debt position of the country?

Some "old" Labour supporters undoubtedly hope that the new Labour leadership, once elected, will simply revert to higher spending and taxing. Mr Brown's equivocations seem to confirm that this is the case.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE,
Conservative Campaign HQ,
5 Westfield Park, Redland, Bristol.
April 11.

Election: tax, the Lords and Europe

From Mr Ian Bryant

Sir, The Institute for Fiscal Studies, in its report on the effects of tax changes, says that since 1979, whilst the income of society's poorest 10 per cent has increased by only 6 per cent, that of the richest 10 per cent of households has risen by 59 per cent (report, April 10).

Could we scrub all the TV debating and, instead, would the whole nation stay silent for five minutes whilst John Major justifies the inequity of the rich having got richer ten times faster than have the poor since the Tories came to power.

Yours despairingly,
IAN BRYANT,
Hipping Hall, Cowan Bridge,
Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria.
April 10.

From Mrs Susan Milligan

Sir, "What counts is what works" (Tony Blair speaking to a City of London audience, report, April 8) — but not, it seems, for the House of Lords.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN MILLIGAN,
18a Hayburn Crescent, Glasgow.

From Mr Duncan Bryson

Sir, Despite Tony Blair having once signed up to CND, I now trust him not to give away our nuclear deterrent. He is going to sell it.

Yours sincerely,
DUNCAN BRYSON,
109 Martin Avenue, Irvine, Ayrshire.
April 8.

From Mrs Margaret Daly,
Conservative Parliamentary
Candidate for Weston-super-Mare

Sir, I object most strongly to William Rees-Mogg's reference to me in his article today as being as "Euro-fanatical" as Edwina Currie. I am a positive European but totally pragmatic in my attitude to the European Union. I fully support the Conservative policy on Europe as outlined in our manifesto.

Indeed, the local chairman of the Campaign for an Independent Britain recently issued a public statement saying that he would be supporting me. He has rejoined the Conservative Party since my selection and has been out delivering leaflets on my behalf.

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET DALY,
Campaign Headquarters,
28 Boulevard Weston-super-Mare,
Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.
April 14.

From Mr Frederick Cosstick

Sir, As an Englishman, Sussex born and bred, I was somewhat alarmed to find my political future and the future of Britain in Europe being discussed on *Newsnight* last evening in Scottish accents by a panel consisting of Malcolm Rifkind, Charles Kennedy and Robin Cook.

Am I politically incorrect by daring to raise this issue in your august columns?

Yours faithfully,
FRED COSSTICK,
3 High View Court,
Silverdale Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.
April 10.

From Mr Christopher Harris

Sir, For many years far too many people have failed to record their votes.

I commend the system in New South Wales, Australia. Voting there is a legal duty, and failing to vote a criminal offence. The ballot sheet has a box for abstentions. In my view an abstention is perfectly sensible if one dislikes all the other options.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER HARRIS,
17 Rookwood Court,
Portsmouth Road, Guildford, Surrey.
April 14.

Burial of London's precious history

From Professor Andrew Gurr

Sir, The long election campaign seems to have freed ministers from facing difficult decisions. John Gummer, Virginia Bottomley and Lord Inglewood, the ministers responsible for matters of national heritage, are refusing to question English Heritage's outrageous view that the decision by Southwark Council Planning Committee to allow building over the original Globe site need not be referred to them. A flood of letters from academics and others interested in finding more about Shakespeare's theatre, including a petition sent by 493 members of the Shakespeare Association of America, has been ignored.

Since taking control of London's sites in 1991, English Heritage has applied a blanket policy of leaving every site buried. This has the advantage of cheapness, while serving the developers' interests in allowing new building on top of the sites so long as they are not actually destroyed. It also has, however, the massive disadvantage of blocking any new information about the sites. This policy has destroyed the expertise London archaeologists developed up to 1991, and is now blocking a whole generation of students, scholars and the public at large from learning more about early London.

This policy of mindless burial does serious damage when applied to sites containing uniquely important structures like Shakespeare's Globe (letter, March 22). Much more was learned about the Globe's design from the small section that the Museum of London archaeologists dug up in 1989 than had been found in centuries of study up to then. Now a crane looms ominously over the site, and English Heritage has set itself against any more digs into the floor of Anchor Terrace, where the foundations of the original stage still exist.

The Government tacitly accepts the English Heritage view and ignores the outcry against it. People in the future will find it hard to forgive such short-term thinking.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW GURR,
University of Reading,
Department of English,
Whiteknights,
PO Box 218, Reading RG6 6AA.
April 14.

Drugs and prisons

From Dr J. A. Garfoot

Sir, Mr Harold Mitchell (letter, April 8; see also letter, March 31) says that crime cannot be controlled by lenient sentences.

With a 53 per cent recidivism rate, according to a Home Office study of all prisoners released in 1993 (report, March 24), it would seem that any prison sentence has a very limited success. This is especially true of drug-related crime.

At this private clinic for habitual addicts with an intractable problem, 200 of our patients had been in and out of prison several times before they came to us and had served a total of 600 years behind bars. Over the past two years only seven have returned to jail and then mainly for offences committed previously.

This 3.5 per cent reoffending rate surely demonstrates that maintenance treatment with a view to possible eventual detoxification is far more effective than locking them up.

Yours sincerely,
J. A. GARFOOT,
Laybourne Clinic,
Laybourne House,
Admiral's Way, E14.
April 9.

Medical consent

From Dr Michael Abrams

Sir, I was the British chairman of the drafting committee of the Council of Europe's Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine. It is not correct to say, as Dr R. H. Nicholson, Editor of the *Bulletin of Medical Ethics*, does today, that public circulation of early drafts was restricted by me.

What is correct is that such documents can be made public only with the approval of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and indeed a consultation draft was published in July 1994 by the Council of Europe.

Any interested party could then have obtained a copy from the Council of Europe and submitted comments. Subsequently the Department of Health made this draft available for comment and consulted with relevant bodies in this country, including the *Bulletin of Medical Ethics*.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ABRAMS,
97 Wood Vale, N10.
April 10.

Spelling it out

From Mr Nigel R. MacNicol

Sir, Eur Ing H. Bibring (letter, April 10; see also letter April 15) asks why people give dates as "two thousand and fourteen", rather than saying "twenty fourteen".

Actually the problem is specific to the years 2000 to 2009. One has a choice for the later decades, but must adopt the former usage when speaking of the first decade to avoid misunderstandings.

If I tell my boss that I plan to retire in April twenty one, I might find myself put out to grass four years hence — 2001, instead of my planned date in 2021.

Yours faithfully,
N. R. MacNICOL,
9 Church Lane,
Greetham,
Oakham, Rutland.
April 15.

'Colourised' films

From Mr Jack Black

Sir, The director of the British Film Institute (letter, April 12) drew attention to the recent screening of a "colourised" version of *The Longest Day* by LWT — a UK terrestrial television company.

In France the director, as author of a film, is accorded the moral right in law to have the integrity of his work respected. That right is part of the *personnalité* of the author. It cannot be assigned and is perpetual.

In 1992 a French court recognised and protected this human right, even in the case of an American film, when John Houston's daughter, Angelica, took exception to the showing of her late father's classic film, *Asphalt Jungle*, in colourised form and sued to stop its showing in France. As director he had parted with "all rights" under US law and practice to the producer, as usual, when the film was made.

Fred Zinnemann, who fought against this colourised process in Britain and the US, thoroughly approved of the French decision. He lived to see a limited director's moral right provided in the UK in 1989, and the director made co-author with the producer from December 1, 1996, implementing EU directives.

However, great black and white films (being in any case pre-1989) may in principle not be legally safe in this country from colourisation. Moreover, in the case of satellite transmissions emanating from countries which do not have legal safeguards, even France would have difficulty in protecting the integrity of the director's work.

Yours faithfully,
JACK BLACK
(Co-author with Robert Merkin,
Copyright and Designs Law,
FT Law and Tax, 1997),
9 Park Avenue, NW11.
April 13.

Sweet and bitter

From Lord Menuhin, OM

Sir, No one could be more delighted than I to read your third leader on Saturday (April 12). Nigel Kennedy is one of the more unconventional spirits spawned by my school, following in my footprints not only in his love of Bach and Bartok (the Solo Sonata I commissioned in 1943) but also in bridging similar worlds of music so dear to me as those of Johnny Dankworth, Oscar Peterson, Stephane Grappelli and Ravi Shankar.

Ravi Shankar and Stephane Grappelli both visited the Yehudi Menuhin School — Ravi inspiring another great folk violinist from the school, Volker Biesenbender, well known on the Continent and in our music conservatoires; Stephane immediately became Nigel's wonderfully generous tutor in jazz. It was shortly after his visit to the school that Stephane invited Nigel to play jazz at Ronnie Scott's club, where night after night Nigel played with his great mentor.

Yes, we need more Lennie Bernsteins. But what neither he nor I could ever quite bring ourselves to do was to exit from the stage with a pint of bitter!

Yours truly,
YEHUDI MENUHIN,
65 Chester Square, SW1.
April 13.

Lottery and the Church

From Mr Keith Porteous Wood

Sir, The Church Commissioners recently enlightened us about the Church of England's assets which, you report, "have soared to a record £3 billion" (April 1).

The Archbishop of Canterbury now seeks lottery payouts to fund church repairs (report, April 7; letter, April 9).

Surely lottery distributions should be for the disadvantaged, not for vastly wealthy organisations that could manage without them.

Yours sincerely,
K. PORTEOUS WOOD
(General Secretary),
National Secular Society,
Bradlaugh House,
47 Theobald's Road, WC1.
April 9.

Pedestrian crossings

From Mr Mark Whitby

Sir, An excellent new form of pedestrian crossing is appearing in many of our towns, in the form of a raised element of the road level with the pavement, with paving instead of asphalt, and with approaches of cobbles.

Whilst clearly intended to make it easier for us to cross the road, do these crossings imply a right of way for pedestrians in the manner that zebra crossings do, or are they just another form of sleeping policeman?

Yours sincerely,
MARK WHITBY,
5 Broughton Gardens, N6.
April 9.

Record births

From Professor Sir John Dewhurst

Sir, Your report today of the safe delivery of Mrs Pauline Thomson of a son weighing 14lb 3oz contains the comment that "the heaviest child recorded was born in Italy in 1955 at 22lb 8oz".

Gould and Pyle in *Anomalies and Curiosities of Medicine*, published in Philadelphia by Saunders in 1901, record a larger one.

They give an account of the marriage, at the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, in 1871, between Captain Martin Bates and Miss Anne Swan, who called themselves the tallest couple in the world. She was 7ft 5½in in height, he 7ft 2½in.

During Mrs Bates's second confinement great difficulty was experienced in freeing the child's shoulders and a second physician was summoned "by telegram" to assist.

After "a laborious siege" Mrs Bates was finally delivered of a stillborn child weighing 23lb 12oz.

Yours,
JACK DEWHURST
(Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospitals),
21 Jacks Lane,
Harefield, Middlesex.
April 15.

**Letters to the Editor
that are intended
for publication should carry a
daytime telephone number. They
may be sent to a fax number —
0171-782 5046.**

Tewkesbury battlefield

From Mr Michael Rayner

Sir, I am amazed by the statement which you attribute to the leader of Tewkesbury Borough Council (report, April 7; letter, April 9) that there is "no evidence" that the Gastons, the field on which the council is proposing to build 62 new houses, was where the battle of Tewkesbury was fought in 1471.

Primary sources, as well as the landscape itself and thorough modern research, prove that the Gastons site is within the area so designated on the English Heritage battlefields register.

Such sites have far more value than their monetary worth: they must be preserved for future generations. We trust that the Secretary of State for the Environment will intervene.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL RAYNER
(Co-ordinator),
The Battlefields Trust,
Meadow Cottage, 33 High Green,
Brooke, Norwich, Norfolk.
April 7.

Childhood literature

From Mrs Christine McRitchie Pratt

Sir, As another reader with fond memories of *Little Grey Rabbit* (letter, April 10), never do I see the letters RSVP at the bottom of an invitation without remembering, thankfully, that Rat Shan't Visit Party.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE McRITCHIE PRATT,
Brackendale,
Shelford Bottom,
Babraham Road, Cambridge.
April 11.

From Mrs A. G. Lynne

Sir, For me it is the blind faith from that "simpler" time of poor Jemima nibbling her own stuffing that brings the tear whenever I cut up bits of sage.

Yours faithfully,
A. G. LYNNE,
Dedham House,
Dedham, nr Colchester, Essex.
April 10.

They're over here

From Mr D. P. Wright

Sir, I am the Housemaster of a Haileybury School boy's boarding house named after Rudyard Kipling. I have just opened a letter, addressed to Kipling House, from the Associate Dean of a famous American university. It begins, "Dear Kipling, Clean out a desk drawer! This is just the first millimeter of the two-meter stack of letters and glossy brochures headed your way . . ."

What can I do to prevent this unsolicited assault?

Yours faithfully,
D. P. WRIGHT
(Housemaster),
Kipling House,
Haileybury, Hertford SG13 7NU.
April 12.

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 15: The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, this afternoon visited the Licensed Victuallers' National Homes, Denham, Uxbridge, Middlesex, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire (Sir Nigel Mobbs).

His Royal Highness, Patron, Outward Bound Trust, this evening attended the Outward Bound Patron's Company Dinner for the Young President's Organisation at St James's Palace.

Colonel Richard Putnam (Deputy Lieutenant of West Sussex) was present at Gatwick Airport, London, this morning upon the Departure of the Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda and Lady Carlisle and bade farewell to Their Excellencies on behalf of The Queen.

Lady Dugdale has succeeded Mrs Robert de Pass as Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 15: The Duke of York this morning arrived in Harare, Zimbabwe.

His Royal Highness this afternoon attended a Reception at Meikles Hotel for British companies in Zimbabwe and the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Duke of York afterwards called upon the Minister of Defence (the Hon Moven Mahachi).

His Royal Highness later attended a Reception for staff of the British High Commission, British Council and the British Military Advisory and Training Team at the High Commissioner's Residence.

The Duke of York afterwards attended The Queen's Birthday Party given by the British High Commissioner (His Excellency Mr Martin Williams).

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 15: The Prince of Wales today visited Aberdeenshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Captain Colin Farquharson of Whitehouse).

His Royal Highness this morning visited the Aden Country Park, Mintlaw.

The Prince of Wales afterwards visited Abacus Frozen Foods, Station Road, Mintlaw, and toured the factory.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Fraserburgh Harbour and attended a Luncheon.

The Prince of Wales afterwards opened the new Grampian Police Office, Finlayson Street, Fraserburgh, and toured the station.

His Royal Highness later visited the Peterhead Maritime Heritage Museum.

CLARENCE HOUSE
April 15: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Patron, the National Trust for Scotland, today received Rear Admairal Douglas Dow on relinquishing his appointment as Director.

Her Majesty subsequently received Mr Trevor Croft on assuming this appointment.

Lady Penn has succeeded Dame Frances Campbell-Preston as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

YORK HOUSE
April 15: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this afternoon attended the Hanover Industrial Trade Fair, Hanover, Germany. Mr Nicolas Adamson was in attendance.

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Museum of Berkshire Aviation, Woodley, Berkshire at 4.30.

The Princess Royal will attend the Annual Conference and Scientific Meeting, The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, at the University of York at 10.45; as Patron of Victim Support Scotland, will visit the Stirling Victim Support scheme at 76 Port Street at 3.10, and the Albert Hall, Dumbarton Road, Stirling at 3.50; and as Past President of the Chartered Institute of Transport, will attend a dinner at the Quality Station Hotel, Leonard Street, Perth at 6.30.

The Princess Margaret, as President of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, will attend the gala premiere of *The Goodbye Girl* at the Albery Theatre, St Martin's Lane, in aid of the Society and Help the Aged at 7.20.

The Duchess of Kent will open Marina House at the Maudsley Hospital Community Addictions Centre, Denmark Hill, SE5, at 2.30.

Princess Alexandra will attend a concert and dinner for the Voices Foundation at the Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, SW7 at 7.10.

PETER TRIEVNOR

Lucinda Jones from Langport, Somerset, admires a display of iceland poppies from Home Meadows Nursery

Plants spring into early flower

By Alan Toogood
HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Horticultural Society's flower show features many plants that are not normally seen in flower until late spring, such is the earliness of the season. Some exhibitors are showing plants reserved for later shows, including next month's Chelsea Flower Show, and are concerned they may not have enough material to exhibit at forthcoming events.

One worried exhibitor at this show, which opened in Westminster yesterday, is Home Meadows Nursery, of Martlesham, Suffolk, internationally known for its displays of iceland poppies *(Papaver nudicaule)*, especially at Chelsea. Their own "Meadhome Strain" in orange, yellow, pink and white, is making a brilliant display at Westminster.

In this varied show, Ashwood Nurseries, of Kingswinford, West Midlands, are showing their own strains of rock-garden lewisias, including the new "Ashwood Carousel Hybrids" which are noted for their dwarf compact habit, extreme hardiness and prolific flowering, ideal plants for alpine troughs, screes and rock gardens. The exhibit has been awarded a gold medal.

Among the many new border auriculas from Cravens Nursery, of Bingley, West Yorkshire, all their own raising, are some with brown flowers, an unusual colour among these primulas, including "Frilly Brown" with dark, frilled flowers, and "Brownie Hybrids" in light and dark shades. This display has been awarded a gold medal.

Other gold medallists are Burncoose Nurseries, of Redruth, Cornwall (seasonal trees and shrubs); Fir Trees Pelargonium Nursery, of Stokesley, Cleveland (pelargoniums); and Southfield Nurseries, of Morton, Lincolnshire (flowering cacti and succulents).

Among the more unusual exhibits is a display of the ancient Japanese art of ikebana flower arrangements from the Sogetsu Eisei Study Group, of Richmond, Surrey, which marks their 70th anniversary.

An educational exhibit based on the historic gardens at Wentworth Castle, Stainborough, South Yorkshire, has been staged by the Peak District Branch of the RHS Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group, of Chesterfield, Derbyshire. The photographs show the major restoration work carried out in the gardens over the past 20 years, which have one of the largest collections of rhododendrons in northern England.

Several competitions are being held with this show. In the RHS daffodil competition, Mr F. C. Postles, of Droitwich, Hereford and Worcester, has won the Engleheart challenge cup for 12 cultivars bred and raised by the exhibitor. They include the white trumpet cultivar "Night Flight" which has been judged best bloom in the competition. Mr Postles has also won the Guy Wilson memorial vase for six cultivars of white daffodils, which again include "Night Flight". In the section for amateurs, Mr John Ennis, of Ballinamallard, Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, has won the Bowles challenge cup for 15 cultivars; and Mr P. Payne, of Postwick, Norfolk, has secured the Richardson trophy for 12 cultivars.

In the RHS camellia competition Ann Hooton, of Loxwood, West Sussex, has been awarded the Leonardslee bowl for 12 blooms, including the well-known deep pink *williamsii* cultivar "Anticipation".

In the Alpine Garden Society's show, Mrs C. M. Collier, of Norwich, Norfolk, has won the RHS Sewell medal for six pans of rock plants with *Primula* "Snow White" (a white auricula), *Erythronium helenae* (white and yellow), *Dionysia involucrata* (pink), *Pteridophyllum racemosum* (fern-like leaves, white flowers), *Trillium grandiflorum* (pink), and *Androsace villosa* (white). The Farrer memorial medal for best plant in the show has been won by Mr E. N. Fuller, of Wadhurst, East Sussex, with *Daphne cneorum* "Pygmaea" (deep pink flowers). Mr E. C. Jarrett, of Longfield, has won the Audrey Bartholomew memorial trophy for best plant from North America, with *Fritillaria affinis* (green, brown-checkered flowers). The George Gable memorial trophy for best pan of Ericaceae has been won by Mrs C. M. Collier with *Rhododendron cephalanthum* (a dwarf species with small white flowers).

The show, in the Horticultural Halls, Vincent Square and Greycoat Street, Westminster, is open today from 10am to 5pm.

School news

St Albans School
St Albans School announces the following awards for entry in 1997:

Geoffrey Pryke Memorial Scholarships
11+: Frederick Motson, Killigrew JMI School.
13+: Michael Henson, Heath Mount School.
Sixth Form: Thomas Withnell, Verulum School; *Sally Jenkins*, St Albans High School for Girls.

Nicholas Bacon Scholarships
11+: James McLeod, St Columba's Prep School.
13+: Simon Morris, York House School.

Academic Scholarships
11+: Gregory Barton, Wood End JML.
13+: Christopher Kelly, Aldwickbury School; Nigel Rawlins, Aldwickbury School.

Music Scholarships
Benjamin Harrison, Aldwickbury School; Iain Pickles, Aldwickbury School.

Art Scholarships
Peter Seebohm, Heath Mount School; Alastair Gray, Lochinver House School.

Summer term begins today. Head of School will be Daniel Gibbons. Deputy Heads of School, William Roberts and Victoria Goodfellow. Founders' Day is on Saturday, July 5, *when the preacher* will be Father Aidan Bellinger, of Downside.

Bedgebury School, Goudhurst
Term commenced on Monday at Bedgebury School, Goudhurst, with *Ursula Scarborough as Head* Girl, Rhiannon James as Deputy Head Girl and Leonora Hoole as Senior Day Girl. Bedgebury will be 'At Home' at Fulham Palace on May 8 from 6.30pm-9.30pm; Concert of Baroque Music at St Laurence Church, Hawkhurst on May 1 at 7pm; Old Girls Day is May 10; Open Day is May 14; Lillesden Day is June 21, and guest of honour on Speech Day on July 4 is Major General Sir Philip Ward, Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex.

Churcher's College
Summer Term at Churcher's College began yesterday. Half term is from May 24 to June 2. The Captain of Cricket is Daniel Clarke. *The Old Churcherian Club* and Society London Dinner will be held at the East India Club on Friday, May 9, and members are invited to the annual OCC Cricket Match against the 1st XI on Saturday, June 28, starting at 11am. Open Day will be held on Saturday, June 28, from 9.30am to 1pm and Sports Day is on Wednesday, June 25. Term ends on July 4.

Eton College
Eton College opens today for the Summer Half.

R.B.R. *Harrison KS continues as* Captain of School and G.D. Cook OS as Captain of the Oppidans.

There will be four performances of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the Farrer Theatre from May 22-25. The CCF Tattoo will be on May 27, and the Fourth of June celebrations will be held on Wednesday, May 28. Long Leave is from May 28-June 1. The Winchester Match will be at Winchester on June 14, the Harrow Match at Lord's on Friday, June 27.

School closes on June 27.

Headington School, Oxford
Summer Term begins today with Rebecca Pelly-Fry taking over as Head of School. Headingtonians' Day will be on June 7, and the Headingtonians' London Meeting will be at the House of Lords on June 9, at 6.00pm. Please contact the school for details. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Presentation takes place in Oxford Town Hall on May 7. There will be a School Concert on May 8, and the main *school production* of *Pirates of Penzance* will take place in the School Hall on June 26 and 27. The Foundation Day Service will be in Christ Church Cathedral on June 27, followed by picnics and sports in the School Grounds, and the Summer Ball on June 28. Term ends on Thursday, July 3.

The Princess Helena College
The Summer Term begins today and ends on July 3. Gemma Nye is Head of School and Elizabeth Dickens and Helen Williams are her deputies. The *Confirmation* Service on May 17 will take place in St Martin's Church, Preston. School Athletics Competition is on Saturday, May 31, at 10.00am and the School Swimming Gala will take place on Thursday, *June 19, at* 4.45pm. Speech Day and Garden Party is to be held on Saturday, June 21. Tickets for the annual *Summer* Ball on Saturday, June 28, may be obtained from the College. The Summer Concert will be on Tuesday, July 1, at 7.30pm in *The Princess Alice Hall.*

St Catherine's School, Bramley
Summer term begins at St Catherine's School, Bramley today. *Joanna Berrow* remains in office as Head Girl. The School choir will perform *Carmina Burana* and Fauré's *Requiem* with the choir of St Mary's School, Calne on April 26 in *Chippenham.* The Summer Concert will be held on Friday, May 9, at 7.30pm at St Catherine's. The Confirmation service will be held in the School Chapel on May 10. Long Leave is from May 24 until June 1. Baroness Brigstocke will be the Guest of Honour at Speech Day on July 5 in Guildford Civic Hall, *followed* by Open Day at St Catherine's. Term ends on July 10.

St John's School, Leatherhead
The Summer Term begins today at St John's School, Leatherhead. James Cook is Captain of the School and of Cricket. The Bishop of Guildford will conduct a service *of Baptism and Confirmation* on Sunday, April 27. CCF Inspection Day is Friday, May 16, the Inspecting Officer is Colonel D.P. Belcher, Welsh Guards. The Junior play, Max Frisch's *The Fire Raisers* will be performed on May 21, 22 and 23, and the ODS production of Noël Coward's *Private Lives* will be on June 3 and 4. Choral Evensong is at 6.30pm on Tuesday, May 20, and the School Concert is at 7.30pm on Sunday, June 29, on which day there will be a *special* Gaudy Lunch for Old Johnians to celebrate the move to Leatherhead 125 years ago. The Anniversary appeal continues. For information on either the Gaudy or *the Appeal please contact the* Headmaster's secretary. Prize giving is at 11.30am on Saturday, July 5, when the guest of honour will be Sir Ronald Waterhouse.

Woldingham School
Summer Term begins at Woldingham School today. Shauna-Gay Fuller is the new *Head Girl* and Emma Gibbs is Deputy Head Girl. To mark the retirement of the Headmistress, Dr Phil Dineen, a Midsummer Music Evening will be held in the *grounds of the school on Saturday,* June 28, and a Concert is arranged at Fairfield Halls, Croydon, on Thursday evening, July 3. Tickets for both occasions are available from the school at Marden Park, Woldingham, Surrey, CR3 7YA. Autumn Term begins on September 3, when the new Headmistress, Mrs Maureen Ribbins, MA, MSc, BSc, will take up office.

Forthcoming marriages

Lieutenant I.J. Aitchison, RN, and Miss H.M. Mather
The engagement is announced between Ian, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Aitchison, of Lochton, Coldstream, and Heather, younger daughter of Mrs Maureen Mather and the late Mr James *Mather, of Printonan, Duns.*

Mr R.W. Allman and Miss A.J. Daglish
The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of Mr and Mrs P.S. Rainforth, of Twickenham, Middlesex, and Amanda, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.F.S. Daglish, of Kingskettle, Fife.

Mr L.J. Mutkin and Miss S.A. Knight
The engagement is announced between Laurence, son of Mr and Mrs Henry Mutkin, of Hampstead, London, and Stacey, daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Knight, of Malvern, Worcestershire.

Mr N.W.K. Phillips and Miss J.A. Fletcher
The engagement is announced between William, younger son of Major and Mrs H.T.K. Phillips, of Uffington, Oxfordshire, and Judith Anne, younger daughter of Mrs Joan Fletcher and the late Geoffrey Fletcher, of Melbourne, Australia.

Mr C.M. Bunker and Miss C.A. Turnbull
The engagement is announced between Christopher Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Bunker, of Wootton, Bedfordshire, and Caroline April (Callie), daughter of Mr and Mrs John Turnbull, of the Old Elm Tree, *Higham Ferrers,* Northamptonshire.

Mr J.T. Underwood and Miss A.M. Sheffield
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, only son of Mr and Mrs Raymond Underwood, of Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, and Ann, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Sheffield, of Earl Soham, Suffolk.

Mr A.M.R. White and Miss M. Arbib
The engagement is announced *between Andrew, son of* Major General and Mrs Martin White, of Seaview, Isle of Wight, and Melanie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Martyn Arbib, of Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire.

Luncheon

Dr June Goodfield was the speaker at a luncheon of the University Women's Club held yesterday at 2 Audley Square.

Birthdays today

The Queen of Denmark celebrates her 57th birthday today.

Lord Aberconway, 84; the Rev Keith Angus, former domestic chaplain to the Queen, 68; Miss Jenny Bacon, Director-General, Health and Safety Executive, 52; Miss Joan Bakewell, broadcaster, 64; Lord Camoys, 57; Sir Douglas Frank, QC, former Deputy Judge of the High Court, Queen's Bench Division, 81; Miss Lynne Franks, public relations consultant, 49; Sir John Harvey-Jones, former chairman, ICI, 73; Mr Michael Hirst, former Chief Constable, Leicestershire, 59; Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, MP, 73; Mr Richard Lawrence, editor, *Leading Notes*, 51; Miss Margaret Maden, educationist, 57; Miss Ruth Madoc, actress, 54; Mr P.I. Marshall, chairman, Ocean Group, 70; Miss Conchita Martinez, tennis player, 25; Mr Spike Milligan, author and comedian, 79; Sir Geoffrey Owen, former Editor, *Financial Times*, 63; Mr Martin Owen, chief executive, NatWest Markets, 51; Mr David Porter, MP, 49; Mr W. George Purdy, Chief Scout, 55; Judge Rant, QC, Judge Advocate General, 61; Sir John Robson, diplomat, 67; Miss Constance Shacklock, opera singer, 84; Dr W.T. Stearn, botanist, 86; Professor Barbara Tizard, educationist, 71; Sir Peter Ustinov, actor, 76; Mr Frank Williams, managing director, Williams Grand Prix Engineering, 55.

Marriages

The Hon Alexander Dewar and Miss D. Clement
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 5, 1997, at St Michael's Catholic Church, Rondebosch, Cape, South Africa, of the Hon Alexander Dewar, son of Lord and Lady Forteviot, of Aberdalgie House, Perthshire, to Miss Donryn Clement, daughter of Mr Rusty Clement and Mrs Mieke Clement, of Cape, South Africa. Father Guy Fraser-Ruffell *officiated.*

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Sophie and John Drummond, Miss Jacqueline Clement, Miss Kim Myerson and Mrs Jennifer Cilliers. Mr Godwin Busuttil was best man.

A reception was held at the Kelvin Grove Club, Newlands, Cape, South Africa, and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr M. Colman and Miss J. Johnston
The marriage took place on Friday, April 4, at All Saints' Church, Woollahra, Sydney, of Mr Matthew Colman, younger son of Sir Timothy and Lady Mary Colman, of Norwich, Norfolk, to *Miss Jane* Johnston, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs James Johnston, of Sydney, Australia. The Rev Paul Weaver officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Melissa Hobbs, Sharon Barclay, Georgina Milne, Alexandra Milne, Sophie Ramsbotham and Jake Colman. Mr Harry Cole was best man.

Mr M.D. Bickford and Miss N. Propper
The marriage took place on Saturday, *April 12, 1997, at The Savoy,* London, of Mr Mark David Bickford, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Warwick Bickford, of Plymouth, to Miss Natalie Propper, daughter of Mr and *Mrs Peter Propper*, of Hampstead Garden Suburb, London. Mrs Katherine Mason officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Mr Alex Michel-Ashen was best man.

A reception was held at The Savoy and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr E.D.C. Cooper and Mrs S.D.M. Gidley
The marriage took place at Richmond on Thames, on Wednesday, *April 9*, of Mr Desmond Cooper and Mrs Sheila Gidley.

Mr M.I.G. Wilson and Miss E.M. Loudon
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 12, at St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington, of Mr Mungo Wilson, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Wilson, to Miss Emily Loudon, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Loudon. The Rev Ian Robson officiated.

The bride, who was given in *marriage* by her father, was attended by Anna Wilson, Emily *Arnold, Lukyn Gedge, Clara* Nevola and Oscar Clark. Mr Andrew Vallings was best man.

A reception was held at the Royal College of Music.

Dinner

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, delivered the Royal Society of Medicine's Nuffield lecture to the society last night at 1 Wimpole Street. Sir Christopher Paine, president, accompanied by Lady Paine, received the guests at a dinner *held* afterwards. Among those present were:
Lady Woolf, Lord and Lady Smith, Sir Christopher Booth, Sir Donald and Lady Harrison, Sir Robert and Lady Johnson, *Sir George and Lady Pinker, Sir Gordon and Lady Robson, Sir David* and Lady Innes Williams, Sir James Watt and Sir Gordon and Lady Wolstenholme.

Royal Aero Club

Mr Eilif Ness, President of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, was the guest of honour at the annual awards ceremony *of the Royal Aero Club of the* United Kingdom held yesterday at Goldsmiths' Hall. Mr Frederick O. Marsh, chairman of the club, was the host.

The Royal Aero Club gold medals were awarded to Mrs Anne Welch and Mr David Bareford.

Service luncheon

Royal Fusiliers
Officers of the 1st Battalion Royal Fusiliers, who served in Korea 1952-53, attended a reunion *luncheon held* yesterday at HM Tower of London.

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Then Jesus went back with them to Nazareth, and continued to be under their authority; his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. Luke 2 : 51

BIRTHS

ALPHONSE - On 10th April 1997, to Caroline (née Manners) and Pierre, a daughter, Lucy Honor, a sister for Alice.

BLACK - John and Rebecca (née Williams) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Emily Anne Margaret at John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, on 11th April 1997.

BORWICK - On April 9th at The Portland Hospital, to Victoria (née Poore) and Jamie, a son, a brother for Edwin, Thomas and Alexandra.

GREGORIE - On April 12th 1997, to Tessa (née Hamilton-Shaw) and Alasdair, a daughter, Alice Evelyn, a sister for Flora.

HARDING - On 4th April, to Stephen and Caroline, at Fieldhouse, Eccleshall, Staffs., a son, Humphrey Charles Egerton, a brother to Rosanna and Leila.

HESMONDHALGH - On 18th March, to Ivo and Ann-Mari (née Beatty), a son, Bede Laurence John.

HOWES MUCCIOLO - On 12th April at The Portland Hospital, to Lindsey and Louis, a son, Evan.

LINES - On April 9th, to Emma (née Fox Bassett) and Michael, a daughter, Lucy Margaret Rose, a sister for Harriet and Rebecca.

MEAGHER - On 13th April 1997, to Lucinda (née Tosh) and Russell, a daughter, Sophie Emma Stephanie, a sister for Eleanor.

PERKINS - On April 9th, to Jemma (née Pisani) and Simon, a son, Luke Patrick, a brother for Joshua.

PUISTER - On April 10th at The Portland Hospital, London, to Suzanne Michelle and John Pascal, a son, Velo-Vincent Pascal.

RAYMENT - On 21st March, to Nicolette (née Hodgskin) and Stephen, a son, Shaw David, a brother for Stewart, Scarlett, Sharn, Spencer and Savanna.

SAUNDERS WATSON - On April 7th 1997, to Elizabeth (née Brown) and James, a daughter, Beatrice Elizabeth Rose, a sister for Eleanor.

SHARRATLY - On April 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Adnan and Maha, a son, Hassan, a brother for Ala.

TAYLOR - On April 13th at The Portland Hospital, to Jo and Andrew, a son, Max, a brother for Caitlin.

TURNER - On 10th April, to Lynn (née Chandler) and John, a daughter, Olivia Jane, a sister for Andrew.

BIRTHS

VANDAMME - On April 9th at The Portland Hospital, to Brenda (née Harper) and Marc Robert, a daughter, Aurelia.

DEATHS

ACOTT - Barbara, widow of Arthur Acott (ICS), died peacefully on 13th April. Loved by all. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Freshford, near Bath, on Friday 18th April at 12.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Save the Children Fund. Enquiries to C.S. Bowyer, 5 Church Street, Bradford-on-Avon, Wilts.

ARAMAYO - On April 13th at St Julian's Nursing Wing, Wimbledon, Doris Elizabeth (née Radcliffe) aged 106, widow of Eduardo Aramayo. Much missed by family and friends. Funeral at Church of Our Lady, Lisson Grove, St Johns Wood, on Monday April 21st at 12 noon. Enquiries to Fredk. Paine Ltd, 6 Coombe Lane, Raynes Park, SW20 (tel: 0181-946 1974).

ARMSTRONG - Robert aged 88, retired Company Chairman, died on Friday 4th April 1997 at Beaconsfield Towers, Ramsey, Isle of Man, after recurrence of lung cancer first experienced 15 years before. Will be sadly missed by his daughter Doreen and his son Robert. The funeral has taken place.

ARNOLD - Marie on 11th April suddenly at home, aged 96, wife of the late Edmund, mother of Martin, Olav and John and much loved grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at St Robert's Church, Pannal, Harrogate, at noon on Friday 18th April. Family flowers only.

BAILHACHE - Nanette Rose (née Ferguson), beloved wife of Jurat Lester Vivian (Lee) Bailhache, peacefully abroad whilst on holiday with her family on 12th April. Will be greatly missed by her husband, children and grand children. Funeral details later. Enquiries to Pitcher & Le Quesne Ltd Funeral Directors. Tel 01534 33330

BOORNE - Audrey in The Sue Ryder Home, Leckhampton Court, Cheltenham, on 14th April 1997 aged 69. Cremation at Cheltenham Crematorium on Wednesday 23rd April at 12 noon.

CARO - Norbert (Norman) actor, in his 88th year; sadly missed. Funeral details, Ayling (01483) 567333.

DEATHS

BICKFORD - On April 14th, in Brighton General Hospital, Sussex, Elinor. Sister of the late Captain Jack Bickford RN and cousin of the late Joan Hulse (née Tizard). Dearly loved by all the Hulses - Eric, Nancy, Christopher, Timothy, Anthony & Gillian & their families. Cremation at The Woodvale Crematorium, Brighton on Tuesday April 22nd at 1.30pm. Family flowers only, donations to King George's Fund for Sailors, c/o R.A. Brookes & Son, Haywards Heath, Sussex, tel: (01444) 454391.

COOPER - Helen Louise, much beloved wife of Andrew, died peacefully in hospital Sunday 13th April 1997. Funeral 11.15 am on 23rd April, North Chapel, Woodvale Crematorium, Brighton. Family flowers only. Donations in aid of Young Artists' at The Sir John Cass Department of Art to Funeral Directors, Co-Operative Funeral Service, 133 London Road, Brighton BN1 4JH, tel: (01273) 607276.

CUTHBERTSON - Joan peacefully in hospital on April 10th. Beloved wife of George, much loved mother of Penny and Iain and grandmother of Emily, Katie and Tom. Thanksgiving Service at St John's Church, Shirley Church Road, Shirley, on Monday April 21st at 1.30pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to King Edward VII Hospital for Officers to be sent to Funeral Directors J.B. Shakespeare Ltd, 67 George Street, Croydon, CR0 1LD.

DAWE - Edward George James (Teddie) beloved husband of Pat, peacefully on 12th April 1997. A Service of Thanksgiving at The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy on Thursday 24th April at 12 noon. Donations, if desired, to The Leonard Cheshire Foundation, 26 Maunsel Street, SW1.

DOUGLAS - At home in Hampstead on 9th April 1997, Dr. Mary Carr Douglas, daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs David Douglas of Hamilton, dear friend of May Martin and beloved aunt and great-aunt of the family. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium on Friday 18th April at 2.15 pm. Flowers and enquiries to Leverton & Sons, 181 Haverstock Hill, Hampstead, NW3 4QS, tel: (0171) 586-4221.

DUCK - Dr. Jean S.H. Duck (née Mitchell), wife of Dr. Donald Duck of Mallaig, died peacefully on 13th April 1997 at Western General Hospital, Edinburgh. Her family were with her. A service will be held at Warriston Crematorium Main Chapel on Saturday 19th April at 12 noon. Donations if wished, to C.M.S., 157 Waterloo Road, London. A Memorial Service will be held in Mallaig at a later date.

FEENEY - Mrs Isabel Erica Blechynden Feeney (née Moller), called "Dido", elder daughter of the late Mr and Mrs N.E. Moller of "Fairyland", Shanghai. Passed away peacefully on 13th April in London in the presence of her own family. Funeral Golders Green Crematorium Monday 21st April 11 am. Floral tributes to W. Garstins, 10 Chiltern Street, W1 by 9.30 am or donations to Cancer Research or R.N.L.I. Memorial Service will take place at a later date to be announced.

GOLDSTEIN - Alice, died peacefully in hospital on 14th April aged 94. Mother of the late Michael and Geoffrey and beloved grandmother of Stephen, Katherine, Nicole, Nicholas and Christopher. Cremation at Golders Green, 22nd April at 11.30 am.

GOODING - Jessie Robb (née Strange) suddenly in Kingston Hospital on April 12th. Much loved mother of Howard, Caroline and Melanie. Wife of Keith. Funeral Service Friday April 18th at Christchurch, Esher, Surrey, 2 pm, followed by interment at St Mary's Churchyard, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey at 3 pm.

GRANT - Duncan Alistair at home on Saturday 12th April aged 71. A loving father and grandfather, fondly remembered for his charm and wit. Requiem Mass at Holy Redeemer, Chelsea, on Thursday 17th April at 3 pm.

HAMMETT - Thomas (Ian) passed away after a short illness on 12th April. Funeral will take place on Friday 18th April at 2.30 pm at St Mary's Church, Cotham, Bristol, followed by cremation at Canford. Family flowers only. Donations to Francis Taylor Hospice c/o R. Davies & Son, 381 Gloucester Road, Horfield, Bristol BS7 8TN.

HARRIS - Margaret Frances peacefully on 12th April following a stroke. Widow of Leslie and much loved mother of Rosemary and Judith. Memorial Service to be held at St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted, Herts. on Monday 21st April at 3 pm. Donations if desired to Macmillan Cancer Relief c/o J. Worley (Funeral Directors) Ltd., 344 High Street, Berkhamsted, Herts. HP4 1BT, tel: (01442) 870326.

HARRIS - Tony. Peacefully and with dignity at Priscilla Bacon Lodge, Norwich on April 14th. Much loved husband of Pam and father of Judy, Richard, Fiona, Sarah and Lucy. Private Cremation. A celebration of Tony's life will be held at St Helens Church, Ranworth, near Norwich, on Monday April 21st at 2.15 pm to which all friends are welcome. No flowers by request.

INGRAM-JOHNSON - On 9th April, peacefully at Royal Bournemouth Hospital, June Ingram-Johnson (née Beer), dearly loved wife, mother, sister and grandmother, after a courageous fight against cancer. In accordance with her wishes, a private cremation service was held at Bournemouth Crematorium on 15th April. Donations if desired to any cancer charity.

LITTLEJOHN - Teresa Mary (née Meade) died peacefully at home on Saturday 12th April. Much loved wife of Claude, mother of Mark, Anne, Simon and Sarah, grandmother to Nicolas, James and Georgia. The Funeral Mass will be on Friday 18th April 11.15 am at St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill, followed by private cremation.

LOW - On April 12th 1997 Dorothy Margaret aged 90 years of Southbourne, Bournemouth. Widow of the late David M. Low. Funeral Service to be held at Bournemouth Crematorium on Friday 18th April at 10.30am.

MACKAY - On April 12th 1997, after a long illness, Anthony, aged 59 years. Much loved husband of Janet, father of Rupert and Damian and stepfather to Tamara and Rupert. Funeral Service at Newenden Church on Tuesday April 22nd at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only but donations if wished to Pilgrims Hospice, Canterbury, c/o C. Waterhouse & Sons, High Street, Burwash, E. Sx. Tel: (01435) 882219.

MITCHELL - John Irvine peacefully at Murrayfield House Nursing Home, Edinburgh, on Sunday April 13th 1997. John Irvine Mitchell, dearly beloved husband of the late Daisy, dear father of Tim and much loved Granda of Anna and Robert. Funeral Service at Warriston Crematorium Cloister Chapel Edinburgh on Friday April 18th at 1.15pm, to which all friends are invited. Flowers if desired may be sent to McKenzie & Millar Funeral Directors, 83 Gt. Junction Street, Edinburgh.

NUNAN - On April 12th 1997 Eve Nunan aged 88 years, wife of the late Sidney and dear mother of Ruth and Hilary. Service at Croydon Crematorium on Friday April 18th at 3.30 pm. Family flowers only, but donations for Alzheimers Disease Society may be sent to J.B. Shakespeare Ltd., 67 George Street, Croydon CR0 1LD.

PEASE - Alan Edward on 9th April 1997 died peacefully after a short illness. Much loved father of Patrick and David, father-in-law to Sally and Tina, brother of Daphne, grandfather of Charles, Zoë and Lucy, great-grandfather of Elliott. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Sowerby on Wednesday 23rd April at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations to British Diabetic Association Research Fund c/o Miss C. Fuller, 10 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0BD.

POWER - On April 13th 1997 John Francis MBE JP KCSG KM DL aged 89 years. Fortified by the rites of Holy Church and greatly loved by church and city. Requiem Mass in Leeds Cathedral Friday April 18th at 1pm. May he rest in peace.

RICHTER - William Harvey, at home on the evening of April 14th, of cancer faced with characteristic courage and elegance of spirit. Adored husband, friend and mentor to Rosemary. May flights of angels sing him to his rest. Cremation private, but a service of thanksgiving for his life at the Temple Church, Inner Temple Lane, off Fleet Street, EC4, at 2 pm on Wednesday 23rd April. No flowers, but donations if desired to the Royal Academy, Piccadilly SW1.

SANDBERG - Dr. Daphne Green Doveton Tilton passed away on 4th April 1997 aged eighty years. Private cremation followed by Memorial Service at St Margaret's Chipstead, Surrey on Tuesday 22nd April 1997 at 2.00 pm. Funeral enquiries to J Stoneman & Sons, Doran Court, Reigate Road, Redhill, Surrey.

STOKES - Barbara peacefully at Cheverells, Northam, formerly of Elstead, on 12th April aged 92. Much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

TAYLOR - Christopher John on Monday 14th April, died peacefully at home after a long illness borne with true Yorkshire grit. Loving and much loved husband of Sandy. Funeral Service at Cambridge Crematorium at 4pm on Friday 18th April. All welcome. Family flowers only please. Donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care, c/o Bernard Reiss Centre, Brookfields Hospital, Cambridge CB1 3DF.

VENABLES - Peacefully in The Royal Lancaster Infirmary on 13th April 1997, Mary Elizabeth aged 42 years of Regent Street, Lancaster. Deeply loved and sadly missed by all her relatives and friends. Requiem Mass will be held on Friday 18th April at St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster at 12 noon prior to committal at Lancaster and Morecambe Crematorium. Enquiries Co-operative Funeral Services, Lancaster tel: 01524-64650.

WEBSTER - On April 14th, peacefully at home, Joan Elizabeth Sophia, aged 87, of Corfe Castle, Dorset, widow of John de Ville Webster, loving and beloved mother and grandmother. Funeral at 11.30 am on Friday 18th April at the Church of St Edward King and Martyr, Corfe Castle. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Swanage Lifeboat c/o James Smith, Funeral Director, 60A Kings Road, Swanage.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

GLUBB - Sir John Bagot (Glubb Pasha). One hundred years ago today - born Preston Lancs., April 16th 1897, died Mayfield, East Sussex, March 17th 1986. Remembering you with all our love. Rosemary and the family.

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OBITUARIES

WILLIAM RIGHTER

William Righter, former Reader in English and Comparative Literature at the University of Warwick, died of cancer in London on April 14 aged 69. He was born in Kansas City on August 31, 1927.

A charming, intellectual and, above all, cultured American, William Righter was a figure who might almost have stepped from the pages of a Henry James novel. Indeed, he held the work of James in the highest regard and became increasingly interested by the subtle inflections of his moral universe. In retirement he met regularly in a London pub with like-minded scholars to discuss "the Master's" ambiguities and velleities.

It was the interface between philosophy and literature which Righter examined. As a Reader in English and Comparative Literature at Warwick University, he was admired for his wide-ranging scholarship and open-minded critical and philosophical approach.

He refused the over-simple and the schematic, contributing in his distinctively humane, subtle and allusive manner to critical debates from Empson and Richards to Kristeva and Derrida. The enduring end of criticism, he wrote in his *Logic and Criticism* (1963), is "to open up as much of the work as one can, and relate as much as seems relevant to both literary and personal situation".

Valued as a lecturer, Righter's sceptical probing of the role of the "study" of literature in relation to the intelligent "reading" of it, gave a distinctive flavour to his teaching. He was greatly influenced by Isaiah Berlin, as well as by Montaigne's perception that "every example turns", and his acute awareness of the pitfalls of relativism never led him to swerve from his abiding commitment to pluralism.

Righter chose to live in Europe for much of his life. He understood its many-faceted culture, approaching it with that particular insight and sensitivity which an outsider can sometimes bring. He haunted museums all over the world, from the Nelson Gallery in Kansas City to the Uffizi, from the British Museum to the Louvre. Guests who were invited to sit around his dinner table — at which carefully selected wines and foods would be served — would be treated to discourses of delicate discernment and profound learning, always delivered in perfect Jamesian sentences. Righter unfurled his thoughts in elegantly rolling clauses, never struck by hesitation or at a loss for the *mot juste*. He also had a particular rapport with the young and was a sensitive, careful and encouraging listener.

William Harvey Righter began his academic career at Harvard, from which he graduated in 1949 *cum laude* in philosophy. He went on to read for his MA at Kansas University where in 1951 he was appointed Whitcomb Fellow in Comparative Literature, a position he was to hold for two years.

In 1954 he went to Oxford, where he obtained a BLitt, before returning to the United States to teach at Cornell University. There, as a young lecturer, he was accosted by an elderly departmental gorgon. "Young man, you must get yourself a century," she admonished. Throughout his life Righter resolutely declined to take this advice. He was never trammelled in his thought, either by specialty or tradition.

Righter returned to France and then to England in 1960 where he lectured at King's College, Cambridge, and supplemented his salary teaching servicemen at the University of Maryland (Overseas). As his students were of highly varied educational background, to assess them he always asked them to write an account of their lives. One student began: "I was borned in a house of sin and hate." It was, Righter thought, a terrible thing to try to educate a man who would never write a better sentence in his life.

Righter published his first book in 1963. *Logic and Criticism* was a carefully reasoned study of the ways in which literature has been discussed, mainly in the present century. Entirely "naturalistic" or entirely "aesthetic" explanations were inadequate, Righter argued, and with characteristic vigour and precision he unearthed all that might be innacurately assumed by a critical remark. He showed how narrow could be the single-stranded approach of critics such as Cleanth Brooks (with his concept of irony) or William Empson (with his ideas of ambiguity). This book, wrote a reviewer in *The Times Literary Supplement*, "wields a knife that will go on cutting . . . for a long time".

In 1964 Righter published a second work, *The Rhetorical Hero*, a distinguished contribution to the study of André Malraux, a writer whom he saw as "a last incarnation of 'Faustian man'". Righter, with "his fresh and critical mind", shows, as one reviewer phrased it, "an intelligence quite equal to that of Malraux".

With his expertise in both literary studies and philosophy, Righter was invited in 1965 by Professor George Hunter to join him at the foundation of the University of Warwick to set up its department of English and Comparative Literature.

From the start he helped to develop its innovatory role in studying English literature in its European and American literary contexts. He spread the comparativist word in the University of Hong Kong in the early 1970s when, on secondment from Warwick, he was for three years Professor of Comparative Literature there.

Righter was influential in the pioneering work on the study of the inter-relations between philosophy and literature, for which Warwick University has become well known. He worked closely with members of the philosophy department and continued to support its centre for research in philosophy and literature, even after his retirement in 1993. He participated in a seminar last summer with Professor Martha Nussbaum on Henry James.

Righter published two other significant works in his life *Myth and Literature* (1975) and *The Myth of Theory* (1994). The last reveals a philosophical mind, unlimited by any single tradition, taking a clear and demanding look at the areas over which literary theory too often claims too little or too much. He was also the general editor of the series *Concepts of Literature* and, up until the time of his death, he was preparing a manuscript on the late work of Henry James.

William Righter was three times married. His wife since 1968, Rosemary Righter, is the chief leader writer of *The Times*.

TIMOTHY MASON

Timothy Mason, cellist, died of cancer in London on April 4 aged 48. He was born on April 29, 1948.

TIM MASON was a fine performing musician, but his energies and enthusiasms for so many different aspects of his profession made him an especially influential force in the worlds of new music and period performance.

He began the chamber group Capricorn and played a crucial role in the founding of the Orchestra of the Age of the Enlightenment; his knowledge, vision and innate sensitivity were a source of inspiration to countless performers, conductors and administrators.

The third of the four sons of Stewart Mason, Chief Education Officer for Leicestershire and a founder of the Leicestershire Schools Symphony Orchestra, Timothy George Stewart Mason began playing the cello at the age of seven.

In 1958, at the age of ten, he went to the Pilgrims' School, Winchester, as a "quirister". He was so academically precocious that he was sent over to Winchester College for lessons, and he eventually completed his schooling there, taking O, A and S-levels at an absurdly early age.

His musical skills were nurtured by the college head of music Christopher Cowan and by his wife Jane, who taught him the cello. He won a place in the National Youth Orchestra; the NYO years furthered his musical acumen, as well as establishing lifelong friendships — for example with Mark Elder, the conductor and David Pountney, the opera director.

Mason won a scholarship to King's College, Cambridge. He was a brilliant student — "there was nothing to teach him, he knew it all already," commented one of his professors — and he was urged to stay on in academic music. But he had always wanted to be a cellist and, after taking his Cambridge degree, he did a BMus so that he could study the cello with Maurice Gendron in Paris for six months. This also entailed producing a portfolio of original compositions — his was impressive and the examination panel encouraged him to become a composer.

Back in England he lived in a flat in Hampstead above some science laboratories, where he attempted to grow mushrooms in the basement (gardening was always something of an obsession with him). He freelanced with various orchestras and founded the chamber group of Capricorn which has a special interest in contemporary music and whose instrumentation is not fixed. At their first try-out concert in a private house in Notting Hill in 1973 the programme included Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time* (for piano, violin, clarinet and cello).

Mason's musical tastes were completely catholic and he was as at home tackling new music (much of it commissioned by him for Capricorn) as he was playing in period instrument ensembles. As co-principal cellist of The English Baroque Soloists and the Orchestra of the Age of the Enlightenment and cellist in the London Fortepiano Trio, he took part in many recordings.

His prodigious energy was poured not only into his own performing but also into the organisation of the groups in which he played. As chairman of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment for eight years, he had a profound influence on every aspect of the orchestra's activities — from repertoire to guest artists. A more conscientious administrator would be hard to imagine: nothing he did was informed by self-interest but rather by a passionate sense of wanting the music to be performed as well as possible.

In the mid-1970s Mason bought a house in then unfashionable Hackney with the viola player Jan Schlapp, whom he married. Alongside his professional commitments, he worked on musical analysis at London University, while deliberately not seeking a further academic degree. The study of analysis was typical of his inquiring mind, always eager to delve further towards understanding music of all kinds.

Yet playing the cello remained his bedrock. His chosen instrument had been his companion throughout life — from the hours of scales in the school holidays through the concertos he played with the Leicester Orchestra and in Cambridge to the constant orchestral and chamber concerts of his professional life.

He continued playing professionally until his last trip abroad last month to Paris to perform with John Eliot Gardiner's Orchestre Revolutionaire et Romantique. It was a source of great regret to him that he had been too ill to play in the same orchestra's recent Schumann weekend at the Barbican, since Schumann was one of the many composers in whom he had a passionate interest.

The cancer that struck him last summer forced Mason to take life more easily than ever before, and queues of visitors formed in the corridors of St Bartholomew's Hospital. It is a measure of his extraordinary selflessness that he expressed surprise that he had so many friends.

He is survived by his wife Jan and their children Nathaniel and Lucy.

AUDREY HARVEY

Audrey Harvey, journalist and charity worker, died on April 10 aged 85. She was born on March 3, 1912.

FOR 25 years Audrey Harvey was one of the more distinguished contributors to the *New Statesman*. Writing only three or four times a year, she specialised in stories of injustice in the housing field — dealing with possession orders, rent arrears, tied occupancies and all the other legal problems that used to affect the lives of those whom, in the title of an influential 1950s' Fabian pamphlet, she once termed *Casualties of the Welfare State*.

That, no doubt, risks making her copy sound worthy but dull. In fact, it was never anything of the sort. Audrey Harvey possessed a remarkable capacity for story-telling, as was reflected in the headings (always chosen by herself) for her articles. These varied between "Man About the House", through "The Furnished Room Mystery" to "The Case of the Student's Wife".

Perhaps, however, her most famous piece was one she wrote in February 1977. It was about a man-and-wife team who had been employed at a house in Mayfair to look after the property, largely in its owner's absence. The wife had died and their employer was seeking to evict the surviving husband. The article was called simply "The Duke's Servant" — and, though the ducal identity was disguised, it was sufficiently thinly concealed for it to be guessed at in one by the Duke of Devonshire's sister-in-law, Jessica Mitford (who proceeded to make maximum mischief out of it). The article read — as she wrote at the time — "like a Somerset Maugham or even a Maupassant short story".

Harvey's writing facility was, of course, linked to considerable knowledge. Although not a lawyer herself, few members of the legal profession knew more about the provisions of the various Rent Acts or the regulations for Supplementary Benefit than she did. She had mastered her material the hard way — starting out by involving herself in a Citizens' Advice Bureau in the East End of London, going on to be a founder member of the Child Poverty Action Group, of which she was for two years the citizens' rights officer, and ending up as a prominent supporter of the housing charity, Shelter. (She had been active in advising Jeremy Sandford on the famous TV drama-documentary of 1966, *Cathy Come Home*, which led to Shelter's foundation.)

Typical of her less colourful but no less solid work was the Penguin Special she published in 1964 entitled *Tenants in Danger* — not just a philippic against rapacious landlords but a complete *vade-mecum* for all those who, in the immediate post-Rachman era, found themselves at their mercy.

At first sight, Audrey Harvey was an improbable agent for so much campaigning energy. The product of a conventional girls' boarding school and Oxford University, where she read English, she retained the patrician aura belonging to her background.

In courts and tribunals, where she often appeared to lend her personal support to the cases she took up, this stood her in good stead — magistrates and tribunal chairmen tending to believe that there must be something to be said for a cause embraced by so well-spoken a witness. Yet though her middle-class demeanour may have broken the ice, it was her total command of her subject that enabled justice at least sometimes to prevail.

Audrey Harvey was twice married. She is survived by her second husband, the osteopath Ronald Harvey, to whom she had been married for almost 50 years, and by a daughter.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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LEGAL NOTICES

Beatley Limited

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 24th April 1997 at 12.00 for the purposes provided in Section 98 et seq.

It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meeting concerning Liquidators remuneration, however the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.

A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.

DATED THIS 3rd April 1997
W Conroy - Director

DENTOV LIMITED
(In Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, J J Schapira, ACA, of Leonard Curtis & Co, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company by the Members and Creditors on 11th April 1997.

Dated 11th April 1997
J J Schapira, Liquidator

ERRATUM

A notice which appeared on Friday 11th April, in the matter of "WAFTER TECHNOLOGY LIMITED" should have read "WAFER TECHNOLOGY LIMITED".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE TIMES

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Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

ON THIS DAY

April 16, 1910

The first signatory of this letter was Princess Helena Victoria, a granddaughter of Queen Victoria.

WOMEN'S EMIGRATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—The question of the employment of women of the educated classes who are obliged to earn their livelihood is becoming year by year a more urgent matter. The numerical preponderance of women over men in this country is chiefly marked in the upper *strata* of society, and the problem becomes more difficult the higher the education and the social status. On a visit to this country nothing so impresses the thinking Canadian, Australian, or South African, who is accustomed to a system where women are in a minority, as the excess of women of his own class, many of whom have before them little chance of a useful and attractive career. The young man of the educated classes goes abroad to make his way in the world, but his sister, however capable, has no such outlook. She is compelled too often to linger at home till her youth is past, with no better prospect than a future of aimless and dreary spinsterhood, or to swell the ranks of some of the badly-paid and overcrowded professions open at present to women in this country.

In this, as in other matters, we may well look to the Colonies for a solution. We can give what they lack; they can hold out what we need.

Much has been done in recent years by organizations such as the British Women's Emigration Association and the South African Colonization Society, to find suitable openings for domestic servants, and, to a small extent, for nurses, teachers, and professional women. The Central Bureau for the Employment of Women is endeavouring to deal with the question of female employment within these islands, but for the ordinary educated woman who may be desirous of, and at the same time admirably fitted for, a Colonial career, little has been done. And yet in all our Colonies there are openings which might well be utilized. The educated gentlewoman, accustomed to country life, with a knowledge of practical affairs, and with a little capital, might find an opportunity in some one of the many departments of intensive agriculture. In the towns there are forms of employment similar to those existing here, but better paid and infinitely less overstocked. In nursing, in teaching, in clerical work, and in a score of other activities the Colonies report that there is a need of women's assistance. If some portion of our surplus female population, trained and educated in accordance with the best English traditions, could find a career overseas within the Empire, it would not merely do much to improve the position at home, but it would provide the oversea nations with a type of colonist which in a new country is obviously of the highest value.

Existing organisations provide the machinery of emigration, but it seems to us that the crying need is for a proper intelligence department which shall estimate the demand of the Colonies and bring it into relation with the supply which we believe to exist; which will keep an eye on all suitable oversea openings for women, and endeavour to find for them the proper occupants. It is important that women, more than other colonists, should only leave this country for assured and suitable work.

For this purpose the Committee of Colonial Intelligence for Educated Women has been formed, and we appeal for funds to carry out the work . . .

We are,

HELENA, President of the South African Colonization Society.
ALICE BECTIVE, President of the Central Bureau for the Employment of Women.
LOUISA KNIGHTLEY, President of the British Women's Emigration Association.
CAROLINE GROSVENOR, Chairman of the Committee of Colonial Intelligence for Educated Women.

CHANGING TIMES

How do you protect the unprotectable?

Privacy is dead. Camcorders, surveillance cameras, cash machines and credit cards record every aspect of our lives. Mobile phones can be listened to. Soon satellites will be able to track any moving object anywhere on the globe. With no secrets left, how to protect the unprotectable?

The new Broadcasting Standards Commission (BSC) is under statutory obligation to try. Formed at the beginning of the month out of two bodies with infuriatingly similar names, the Broadcasting Standards Council (which looked after taste and decency) and the Broadcasting Complaints Commission (which dealt with complaints of unfair treatment on air) the new commission has the unhappy task of drawing up a new code of practice on privacy and fair treatment.

BRENDA MADDOX

I say "unhappy" because the task is impossible. All codes and laws to protect privacy run the risk of concealing injustice. Call it "the Maxwell question". A privacy law might curb unwarranted intrusion but only partly. Such a law is so hard to draw up that even the Conservatives have backed off. Their election manifesto promises merely continuous vigilance on whether legislation is needed.

Both the Liberal Democrats and the Labour Party, in contrast, would bring in privacy protection by incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. Yet both parties recognise the inherent danger. Each insists that a Freedom of Information Act is a necessary counterbalance. Otherwise Britain will become an even more secret society.

A privacy law could help in protecting some innocent victims of unwanted publicity, such as the man from Brentwood in Essex who was caught on a local council's closed-circuit television as he tried to slash his wrists. He was not pleased months later to see the scene of his anguish replayed for 9.2 million viewers on BBC1's *Crime Beat* as an example of how a surveillance system can save lives. The man concerned, with the help of the civil rights organisation, Liberty, is suing Brentwood Council for damages.

Legal deterrent might also reduce the tendency of television crews to follow the police on dawn raids in order to feed the current appetite for what is called "reality TV".

A new threat to increase privacy protection, however, has thrown the broadcasters into a panic. It has come in the form of rumours of the contents of the BSC's new privacy code, even though the commission has been swift to point out that it has been merely gathering suggestions. Its draft code will not be ready for a few months yet.

To the general public, the rumoured BSC proposals will sound like exactly what is needed to protect them from being exposed or misrepresented on air. A right, for example, to withdraw an interview after it has been filmed or recorded; a right to be informed of any change in the nature of the planned programme; a right to be given the names of everyone else who is taking part, and to be informed of the questions in advance.

Yet to broadcasters these restrictions would kill investigative reporting stone-dead. What's more, if all contributions to any programme had to receive the consent of all participants, there would be no more gripping fly-on-the-wall documentaries such as the BBC's series on the Royal Opera House. Crusading doorsteppers such as Roger Cook would be stopped in their tracks.

One of the curses of a secret society is overprotection, of broadcasting particularly. The BSC should note that a serviceable privacy code for broadcasters already exists. Drawn up by the Independent Television Commission (ITC) for commercial television, it deals succinctly with the multifarious dangers of privacy invasion that arise during the broadcaster's working day: hidden microphones, secret cameras, interviews with children and the bereaved, entertainment programmes with dramatised reconstructions, interviews obtained by deception. The ITC is currently considering a number of complaints against Channel 4's stylish satire *Brass Eye*.

The ITC at least has teeth. It can levy fines or even remove a broadcast licence. The BSC has no such powers. For all the high calibre of those who work for it, it remains, like its predecessors, essentially a shoulder for the public to cry on. It ought simply to adopt the ITC's code and get on with its other business.

In the end, all privacy codes fail because every case stands or falls on its merits. Is the intrusion in the public interest? The only all-purpose answer a code can give is: "sometimes".

Besides, public grievance against broadcasters is incurable. For some, any filming of grief will be excessive. Many do not accept the facts of copyright law — that the rights to a picture belong with the photographer, and that the rights to private letters, diaries and videos belong with their owner, or his estate, even if he was Frederick West.

The best defence against invasion of privacy is self-defence. Interviewers should not be allowed in without proper credentials and without a consent form stipulating that the interview is to be used only for the single programme in question, and not to be reused as archival material later. The other defence is a thick skin. With exceptions for the bizarre, most of our secrets are the same.

THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Chasing boys from the Beeb

In the frame: Michael Jackson (left) and Alan Yentob

THE search for a new chief executive for Channel 4 began in earnest this week. The shortlist of candidates drawn up by head-hunters Goddard Kay Rogers is understood to include Michael Jackson, director of television at the BBC and controller of BBC1, and Alan Yentob, the Beeb's director of programmes.

From Channel 4 are John Willis, director of programmes, Stewart Butterfield, director of advertising sales and marketing, and Colin Levanthal, director of acquisitions. Bob Phillis, deputy director general of the BBC, is a possible contender. His case is being pushed by some Channel 4 insiders who believe that his arrival at the station would be less likely to prompt the departure of the popular Willis, who would be virtually certain to exit if the job goes to a "programme man" such as Jackson or Yentob.

There are also understood to be at least two candidates from outside the industry. Greg Dyke has reportedly let it be known that he would consider the job, although he is not interested in attending an interview. Another contender is thought to be former CBS head Howard Stringer.

Each candidate has been asked to write a "manifesto" for Channel 4.

The interview panel is believed to consist of Sir Michael Bishop, chairman of Channel 4, and board members David Plowright and Professor Mary McAleese. The interviews, which began yesterday, are taking place at Donington Hall, the imposing Derbyshire HQ of British Midland, where Sir Michael is also chairman. If a candidate is found, the decision could be confirmed on April 28.

Answers please

THE dry and boring performances of Robin Cook and Michael Portillo which last week kicked off BBC's *Election Call* phone-in series (broadcast simultaneously on Radio 4 and BBC1) has prompted soul-searching at the BBC's Millbank bunker in Westminster.

Peter Sissons, who is hosting the series, says: "We have to save the phone-in from determined politicians who see it as an opportunity, because they have no eye contact with their questioner, to steamroller their way through question after question without giving a proper answer."

Goodbye then

DOWNSIZING continues apace, meanwhile, at *The Express*. The latest employees to leave the paper "by mutual agreement" are the arts editor, Mal Peachey, his deputy, Jane Dowle, and arts writer Charlie Porter. Their exodus means the disappearance of the paper's weekly Preview arts section, which at one point was credited with boosting sales on Fridays.

"Mal joined the paper last year on the understanding that it was going upmarket. But the reverse has happened," an insider says.

Peachey's departure is all the more embarrassing for *The Express* since just two weeks ago he was invited to be a judge for the South Bank Show Arts Awards, as part of a determined bid by the programme to include a tabloid journalist on its jury.

● *THE production team of* They Think It's All Over, *BBC1's highly successful sports quiz, has received scores of unsolicited letters from young, male viewers asking for a job.*

Producer Harry Thompson says that the extra work this is giving him and his lads is making him as sick as a parrot. Making a weekly, topical sporting quiz show is not as easy as it seems, he says.

"They seem to think we do nothing but sit around talking about football all day." Well, don't they?

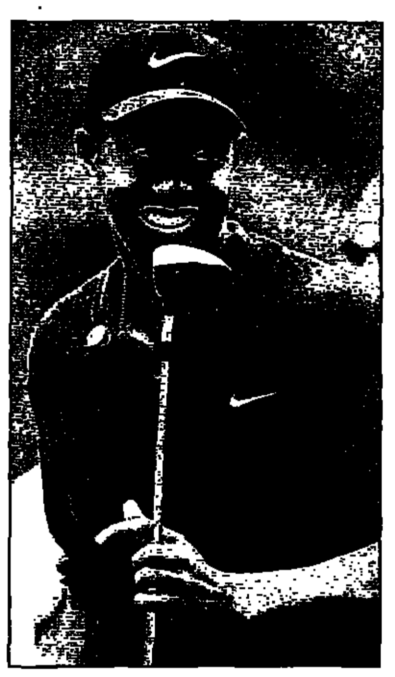
Second bite

THE BBC is being offered a TV version of Hugh Walpole's classic novel *Rogue Herries* — by the man who thwarted its efforts to turn it into a TV series five years ago.

Richard Price, head of the Primetime distribution and production company, acquired the rights to the novel in the 1980s. When the English copyright lapsed, the BBC started its own plans to turn the story into a TV series. Not wanting to proceed without the prospect of international sales, the Beeb abandoned its plans on learning that Price held the US and German rights for a further 20 years.

Now, under the latest European copyright rules, Price has reacquired the British rights and is to make a mini-series of two two-hour shows for international screening.

Ad men caddie for golf



Tiger Woods: vibrant new image

ADVERTISING

FLUSHED with the discovery of the 21-year-old US Masters champion Tiger Woods, golfers are now turning to advertising to help shake off the sport's stuffy image further and brush up its appeal to a younger, more affluent, even female audience.

The Professional Golfers' Association, golf's ruling body, has hired J Walter Thompson, the agency which created the Andrex puppy, to devise a campaign to coincide with next week's National Golf Week.

While the budget might not match the £40 million paid to Woods by Nike in a massive sponsorship deal, the PGA is using advertising for the first time and has briefed JWT to create a press and poster campaign plus a TV commercial for Sky TV.

Mike Gray, PGA's commercial director, says: "PGA National Golf Week is an initiative to encourage more people to take up golf. We have decided to seek guidance and expertise from JWT rather than handling our creative work in-house."

DENIS LEARY, the shock US comedian best known in the UK as the frontman for Holsten Pils's advertising, is causing a stir by starring in an uncannily similar series of commercials for the American software giant and Internet service provider, Lotus.

The style of the new Lotus films, by Ogilvy and Mather US, bears a close resemblance to the Holsten ads, originally created by GGT Advertising. As with the Holsten work, Leary is seen fast-talking his way through scripts, spitting out such lines as "If you wanna surf, go to Maui", while the tone is similarly anarchic and cynical. The commercials potentially contravene the Broadcast Advertising Clearance Committee notes of guidance which dictate that ads resembling other commercials "so closely as to cause confusion" are not acceptable.

A STORM is brewing between the key advertising trade bodies and Equity, the actors' union, over the fees paid to voice-over artists in commercials.

The Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers and the Advertising Film and Videotape Producers' Association are trying to wipe out the discrepancy which allows actors to do voice-overs for rival advertisers, while on-camera actors are ruled out of appearing in rival ads for three years.

Equity is digging its heels in and industry insiders say talks have broken down completely.

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- assist with the management of the company.

The person
- graduate in a technical discipline; qualified chartered electrical engineer, probably aged 35 to 45, and computer literate
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The Sales Director is expected to succeed the MD who plans to retire within 3 years. Please send detailed cv, with a letter indicating your current remuneration and explaining why your application should be preferred, to David Dewhirst, Executive Search and Selection, Ref: 01S/DJD/ST, PA Consulting Group, Chamber of Commerce House, 75 Harborne Road, Birmingham B15 3DH. Tel: 0121-454 5791. Fax: 0121-454 0656.

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SALES DIRECTOR

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The person
- proven sales management experience covering account management, direct selling, distributor channels and/or mail order
- thorough knowledge and experience of the High Street retail and mail order trades in both Europe and the UK
- strong motivational and leadership skills, with the ability to develop sound relationships with customers
- well-honed persuasive and negotiating skills, with energy and enthusiasm.

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Call me, Philip Armstrong, personally on 0171 915 9677

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CD.C Publishing & Public Affairs requires an organised and hardworking assistant for sales, marketing and publishing activities. Duties entail data input and analysis, order processing, mailshotting, assistance with production of publications and marketing material, administration of seminars and conferences. Computer literacy with knowledge of databases and Quark Xpress is necessary.

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CV and covering letter to:

Jane Atkins, CD.C, 7 Marsham Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3DW by Wednesday 23rd April 1997.

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Business, education and sports channels are all on offer as TV's future is decided, says **Alexandra Frean**

Television and the digital revolution

The future direction of British television will be decided by the Independent Television Commission within the next two months, when it awards the first licences to broadcast commercial digital terrestrial television (DTT).

For the consumer, the arrival of DTT will mean up to 36 new channels by 1998, and better quality sound and pictures. It has been described as the biggest change in television since the introduction of colour nearly 30 years ago.

DTT services may prove attractive to viewers who want extra channels yet are not keen to buy satellite or cable services. According to the City analysts BZW, the market is potentially huge. At the beginning of 1997 some 75 per cent (17.6 million) of homes did not take either cable or satellite services.

Clearly not everybody will be prepared to pay around £300 for the decoder boxes needed to receive DTT, but set-top boxes could become an attractive rental produce. Once decoders are built into television sets and the Government sets a deadline for the existing analogue spectrum to be switched off, growth will be exponential.

But what will it all mean to consumers? There are two commercial bids on the table for paid-for DTT services. The favourite is BDB (British Digital Broadcasting), a consortium jointly owned by the broadcasting giants Carlton, Granada and BSkyB. BSkyB is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*. The underdog is DTN (Digital Television Network), owned by the cable operator International Cabel Tel. Both bidders are promising BBC channels.

'It's the biggest change in viewing since colour'

BDB's proposed services are: BBC *Horizon (nature, science and children's* programming); BBC One TV (pop music); BBC Showcase and BBC Style (lifestyle); Sky 1 (family entertainment); Public Eye (*dramas and documentaries* linked by the theme of law and order); Granada Plus (*archive material, plus Coronation Street*); Granada TV Shopping (teleshopping *programmes*); Granada Good Life (lifestyle); Granada Sports Club (sports news *plus a music service*); *Carlton Select* (archive material plus special events, such *as music and football*); Carlton Entertainment (children's and adults' entertainment); *Carlton Films*.

BDB is also offering Sky Movies and *The Movie Channel*, and *Sky Sports*, which has exclusive live rights to Premiership football.

DTN is offering a more innovative service. *Its channels* include: The Money Channel (business and consumer); The Knowledge Network (*education*); The British Sports Channel (including news); The ITN Living History Channel (archive footage); Animal Planet (wildlife); The Box (pop music); Travel (holiday programmes); Digital Box Office (pay-per-view films, sport and live events); Turner Classic Movies; MGM Gold (entertainment); Cartoon Network (children's cartoons by day, adult entertainment by night); Metro TV (local television); The Movie Experience.

DTN is also promising to offer text and interactive channels, a home shopping service and a national news service.

A third commercial bid for a separate part of the digital spectrum has also been submitted by the Welsh broadcaster S4C.

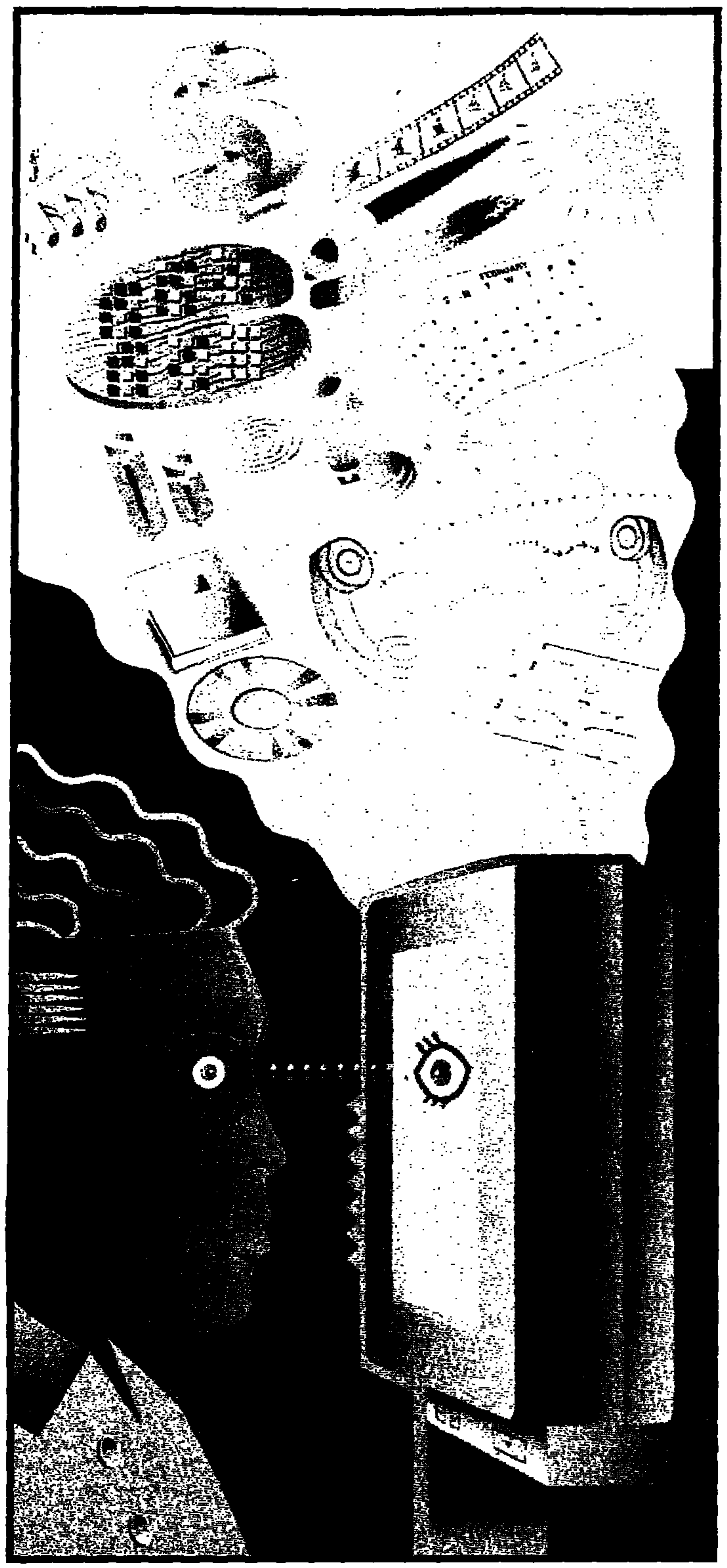
The introduction of DTT does not end with commercial services, however. The main broadcasters have all been allocated part of the digital spectrum for free, which they intend to use to offer free-to-air and paid-for services. The BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5 and the S4C and Teletext will be broadcast on digital terrestrial television and will be free.

The BBC's digital broadcasts of BBC1 and BBC2 will be in cinema-style wide-screen format. The BBC also plans a 24-hour news channel and for BBC Inform, which will enable viewers to keep up to date with major dramas. ITV and Channel 4 are also planning free and paid-for services.

It would be wrong to believe that programming will be the main criterion used by the ITC in awarding the commercial licence. It is bound by five other criteria, which include the geographical coverage area proposed, the speed of the roll-out of the service, the *applicants' ability to establish and maintain* the service, the plans for promoting or assisting *the acquisition of decoders* by viewers and the plans to ensure fair and effective competition in dealings with programme providers.

The ITC is also bound to take into account the extent to which the award of the licence would promote the development of DTT broadcasting in the UK. On *this basis, most* City *analysts* believe that the BDB bid will win. BZW believes that BDB will succeed because of its strong programme offering, subscriber manage*ment and marketing expertise* and the vast resources of its parents. "If BDB does *not win the* licences, it is unlikely that digital terrestrial services will succeed in the UK," it concludes.

BZW predicts that DTT will be avail*able in 8 per cent of homes within five* years, rising to 19 per cent by 2005. CDG's *prediction is that more than half of all UK* households (11 million) will be receiving *digital television in ten years.*



Digital TV will mean more programmes, more channels and improved sound and pictures

Welcome to a night of votes and jokes

Party politics rule as BBC2 mixes election results with comedy

Dimblebys, swingometers and town halls are the stuff that election nights are made of. But this time round, the BBC is planning an alternative to the usual line-up of presenters, politicians and pundits. BBC2's *Election Night Armistice* marks television's first foray into comedy election coverage. Created and presented by the *Friday Night Armistice* team — Armando Iannucci, David Schneider and Peter Baynham — the three-hour show will be going out live on the big night. Highlights include expert analysis by Alan Partridge, Spin Doctor Olympics and an inflatable Paddy Ashdown.

"It's based on our experience of previous elections and how people like to make a party of it," says Armando Iannucci. "Elections are a strange combination of being something that affects your life for the next five years, but also something that's quite festive."

MPs, journalists and an audience will join them in the studio, with live links around the country and prerecorded sketches. "We'll be doing things like torturing a Middle England family, because the whole election has been based around their views," says Iannucci. "And we'll be designating an election-free zone in Manchester, where people can go to recycle rosettes and play Guess the Car Part with Jeremy Clarkson."

'There is no pressure on them to mock politicians equally'

But, they say, it won't all be spoof. The idea is to mix comedy with the results, as they come in, and to let the programme go in whatever direction events take it. "They will be genuine results, not made up ones," says Iannucci.

"We've got Valerie Singleton with a bouncy House of Commons which will fill up with people in red, blue and yellow T-shirts, indicating which way the votes are going. That's all the analysis you need really."

Elsewhere on election night, BBC1 and ITV will be battling for viewers with the usual marathon results programmes. Channel 4 is opting out of the election, screening a film instead, and Channel 5 will be sticking to its normal schedules, with additional hourly bulletins.

The idea of fusing comedy and news is fast becoming an election trend. Worried that viewers will be bored by hours of heavyweight coverage, the channels are looking to comedians to spice up their election programmes. *Newsnight* is running a series of Harry Enfield sketches and inviting comedians on to discuss their views.

But the dominance of comedy also reflects a drive to attract younger viewers. Britain's "yoof" are now famously apathetic when it comes to mainstream politics and broadcasters are desperate to offer them alternatives. BBC2 is showing *The Enormous Election* with Dennis Pennis, tackling young people's issues, the week before the election.

Rory Bremner and the "Two Johns" are heading Channel 4's comedy election. The first of Bremner's election specials is due to go out the Saturday before polling day. Such scheduling would have been unthinkable in previous TV eras. It wasn't until 1959 that the BBC and ITV dared to do any election coverage, let alone satire, so fearful were they of imparting bias. *That Was The Week That Was*, the cult 1960s satire show, was taken off air almost a year before the 1964 election. Hugh Green, the then BBC Director-General, reasoned that "you can't be fair with laughter".

But broadcasters, and especially the BBC, are still cautious about comedy during elections. Harry Enfield has been prohibited from doing his Tory Boy character on *Newsnight*. The *Election Night Armistice* team, though, is relatively relaxed about the impartiality issue. Despite strict BBC guidelines, they say there is no pressure on them to mock politicians equally. "We're under no obligations," says Iannucci. "I think we'll go for whatever prominent issues come up. It depends who makes the biggest mess of the campaign."

MILLY JENKINS

All's fair in tabloid politics

PAPER ROUND

Brian MacArthur

At every election since *1979*, when *The Sun* endorsed Margaret *Thatcher and helped her into* Downing Street, *The Sun*, *The Daily Mail* and *The Express* have backed the Con*servatives and rubbished the* Labour Party. They were *dubbed the "Tory tabloids"* and with up to 18 million voters reading *them every* day, their support mattered.

With *The Sun now* endorsing Tony Blair; *The Express* more *neutral under chief exec*utive Clive Hollick, a Labour *life peer; and only The Daily Mail* showing any real enthu*siasm for dumping* on Labour — and that mainly because of *its stance on Europe* — those 18 million voters are now being *exposed to the fairest* newspaper coverage of any *election since* 1955. It may become the first for decades in which the *conduct of the press* is not itself an issue.

The significance *of The Sun's* backing for Blair was shown yesterday *in the spin* that was put on the headlines *on his BBC statement on Europe's common* fisheries *policy*. "Labour changes tack", said the *Daily Mail* (circulation 2.1 *million*) as it reported that Mr Blair had *performed* his "sixth U-turn" of the election in matching *John Major* on protecting Britain's fishermen.

The Sun (circulation 4 million) put a very different spin on the story — and very different from how it would have reported a similar statement by James Callaghan, Michael Foot or Neil Kinnock. "I'll scupper EU over fish war, says Blair", was *The Sun's* headline as it reported that he had "vowed" to bring the EU to a halt to protect Britain's fishing fleet. Apart from its opinion polling at this election, MORI is also analysing every election arti*cle published in the* national newspapers and studying whether they are negative or positive to Major and Blair and to Labour, the Tories and the Liberal Democrats.

Its study of more than 2,000 articles published between April 1-11, made by subsidiary Test Research, confirms the significance of the fairer reporting in *The Sun* and *The Express*.

Seven in ten of the reports on Labour policies in *The Sun* and *The Express* were either neutral or had a favourable slant — as well as 66 per cent in the *Daily Mail*, 81 per cent in the *Daily Star* (sister paper of *The Express*) and 94 per cent in *The Mirror*.

Given that fairer deal from the tabloids, another gain for Labour in 1997 is that its policies have been the subject of many more reports than Tory policies — 1,327 against 778, an advantage of 71 per cent — and *The Sun* has been more hostile to Major than to Blair.

Of *Sun* reports on Tory policies, 27 per cent were strongly negative against only 5 per cent for Labour. Six per cent of reports on the Tories were strongly positive compared with 14 per cent on Labour. For Labour cam*paign strategists*, the significance of the fairer reporting in the five daily tabloids is their vast readership of 16 million among the 22 million less affluent C2DEs, half the nation's voters. One in two newspaper readers, moreover, reads *The Sun* or *The Mirror*.

They will be delighted by an analysis — an innovation in studies of the press and elections — of the impact of newspaper reports on different social classes. Only among the affluent ABs has Tony Blair received more negative exposure than John Major. Meanwhile, every social class has been exposed to more favourable coverage of Blair than Major, and particularly the C2DEs (where Margaret Thatcher had so many admirers), where Blair has won three times as much favourable coverage as Major. MORI has also compared the key issues for voters against the key stories for editors and politicians. For newspapers *the main* issues have been taxation (6th for voters), the economy (7th), education (2nd) and Europe (8th). Apart from education, *the politicians* appear to be concentrating on issues which do not preoccupy the voters.

Research by media analysts CMS:Precis shows that the Tories improved their performance in the week ending April 8.

Negative coverage of Major dropped from 50 per cent to 40 per cent, and for the first time Blair got more negative than positive coverage (31 per cent to 26 per cent).

Sleaze was overtaken as the biggest issue by the economy and education, even after Martin Bell announced that he was standing against Neil Hamilton.

● *The MORI/Test Research survey is sponsored by Shandwick, the PR consultancy.*

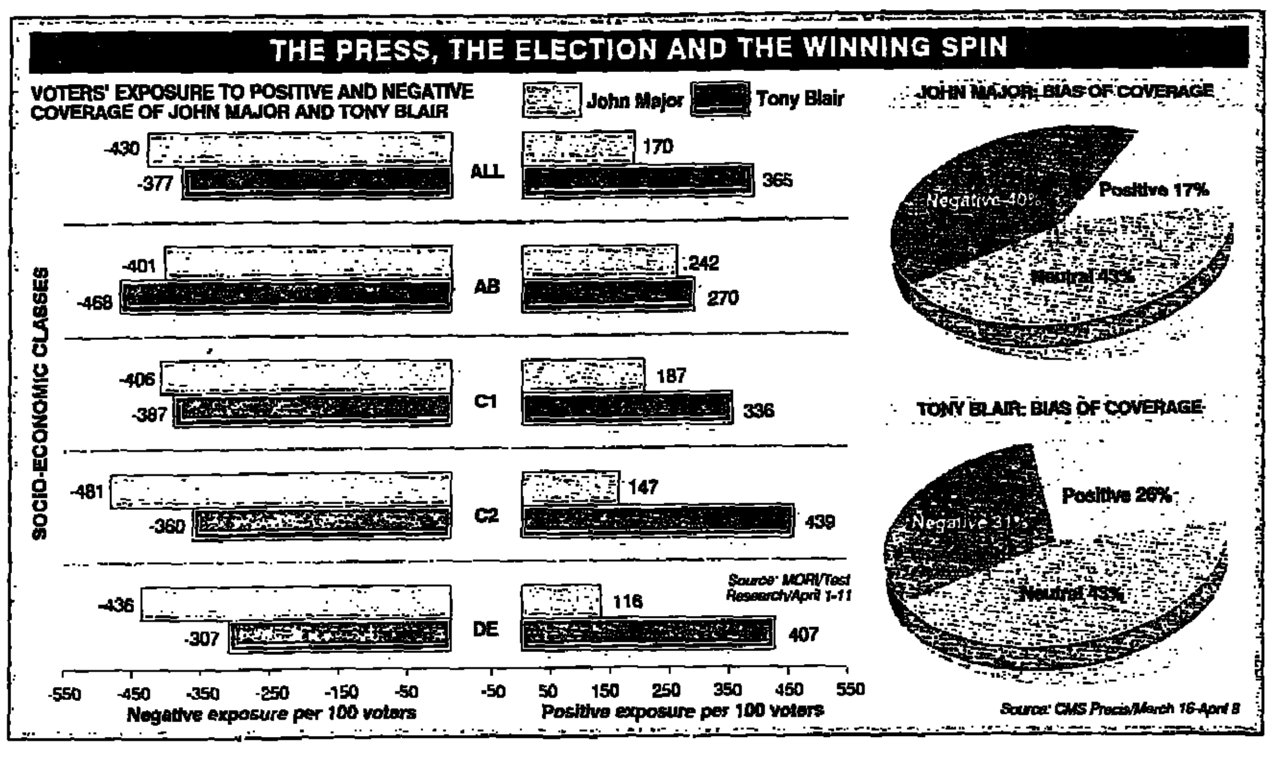
THE 'NEUTRAL' TABLOIDS

Researchers examined news stories relating to policies and graded them from *-2 to +2 according* to their *negative/positive* bias. The percentage of stories in each scale was used to *calculate each paper's bias* index towards each party

	Cuttings No	Cuttings %	-2 %	-1 %	0 %	+1 %	+2 %	Index
TORY POLICIES								
Mirror	53	7	42	34	24	0	0	-118
Sun	33	4	27	3	40	24	6	-21
Star	32	4	16	13	43	28	0	-17
Express	49	6	8	22	60	10	0	-28
Mail	58	7	9	10	59	22	0	-6
Telegraph	104	13	2	8	76	10	4	6
FT	76	10	1	17	74	7	1	-10
Guardian	127	16	2	17	75	6	0	-15
Independent	134	17	2	16	76	6	0	-14
Times	112	14	3	18	62	13	4	-3
LABOUR POLICIES								
Mirror	70	5	0	6	64	19	11	35
Sun	86	6	5	22	33	26	14	22
Star	53	4	2	17	71	6	4	-7
Express	110	8	5	25	64	5	1	-28
Mail	98	7	5	29	61	5	0	-34
Telegraph	213	16	0	13	79	8	0	-5
FT	137	10	1	16	78	5	0	-13
Guardian	187	14	5	7	79	9	0	-8
Independent	181	14	1	8	72	19	0	9
Times	192	14	5	16	66	13	0	-13

Source: MORI/Test Research/April 1-11

THE PRESS, THE ELECTION AND THE WINNING SPIN



Source: MORI/Test Research/April 1-11

Source: CMS Precis/March 16-April 8

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Netherlands	(DFl)	778	46%	428	224	130	188
Switzerland	(SFr)	809	35%	445	232	135	177
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CHANGING TIMES

THE TIMES TODAY

WEDNESDAY APRIL 16 1997

NEWS

Tory Eurosceptic ranks swell

■ More than 120 former Conservative MPs had last night joined the headlong rush to declare their antipathy to a single European currency after being let off the leash by John Major.

They include a junior minister who put his job on the line by openly breaching the Government's wait-and-see approach, while a number of other minsters are more covertly letting their constituents know their opposition to monetary union....................Page 1

Hundreds killed in pilgrim camp fires

■ Up to 300 people were killed and 800 injured yesterday when fires raged through two pilgrim camps on the way to Mecca. Witnesses described mass panic as flames licked through the closely pitched white tents, driven by fierce winds....................Page 1

Ticket to ride

Sir Paul McCartney's daughter Stella was yesterday appointed chief designer at the French fashion house Chloe, succeeding Karl Lagerfeld. Miss McCartney, 25, has designed just three commercial collections....................Page 3

Nurse accused

A nurse murdered her common-law husband by injecting him with insulin so she could inherit his property and marry her lover, a court was told....................Page 3

Mon dieu!

Eric Cantona, the Manchester United football player, refused to be photographed under a giant canvas depicting him as a Christ-like figure....................Page 5

Over the Moon

Chris Moon, who lost his right arm and leg in a landmine blast two years ago, had completed a 143-mile Sahara marathon, defying doctors who told him he would never run again.....Page 6

Reverse leg surgery

Surgeons have saved the life of a six-year-old girl with malignant cancer in a rare operation that involved turning her left leg back to front....................Page 6

Food for thought

Mothers who diet make their daughters eat less, according to an eating habits survey of 400 12-year-old state school girls and their mothers....................Page 8

Imperial relics

With the handover of Hong Kong to China at midnight on June 30, Britain will be left with a handful of dependent territories scattered across the globe....................Page 16

St Helena unrest

The governor of St Helena, one of Britain's most isolated dependencies, has left for London amid complaints about his "dictatorial tendencies"....................Pages 16, 23

Albania operation

The Italian-led expedition to Albania began in earnest yesterday, as more than 1,000 troops from France, Italy and Spain landed by boat and plane....................Page 17

Royal prose

American newspaper editors were yesterday offered their first look at a weekly column in *The New York Times* co-written by the Duchess of York with an experienced biographer....................Page 18

Yeltsin art gesture

President Yeltsin is expected to make a controversial gesture of reconciliation with Germany today when he returns a work of art looted in 1945....................Page 19

Kinshasa paralysed

Zaire's capital was paralysed for a second day yesterday by strikes and a failed "motorised march" planned by opposition leaders who spread a layer of absurdity over a dangerously volatile Kinshasa....................Page 19

School up before the beak

■ Polly the primary school pet was almost a dead duck when the cleaner who was looking after her went on holiday. Magistrates were told how the bird was found without food or clean water in the middle of the summer break. The presiding magistrate said the school in Bracknell, berkshire, should keep no more pets unless it could look after them....................Page 3

CHRIS HARRIS

Fitz, the bulldog star of Labour's election broadcast, with Peter Mandelson, Labour's campaign manager, in London yesterday

BUSINESS

Mary Quant: The Sixties fashion icon is lending her charms to House of Fraser, the dowdy dame of high street retailing....................Page 29

British Telecom: Shareholders approved the group's planned £13 billion takeover of MCI, America's second largest long distance telephone company....................Page 29

Sterling: The pound's index against a basket of trading currencies closed above 100 for the first time since its removal from the European exchange rate mechanism in the Autumn of 1992....................Page 29

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 35.1 points to close at 4286.8. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 99.4 to 100.1 after a rise from $1.6223 to $1.6252 and from DM2.7960 to DM2.8183....................Page 32

SPORT

Simon Barnes: There is one certain thing about every champion, every exceptional person who ever dominated a sport, and who compelled the obedience, the serial defeat, of everyone else in the game — ultimate defeat, ultimate failure....................Page 53

Cricket: On the opening day of the season Jonathan Lewis scored an undefeated double century for Durham against Oxford University in the Parks. Paul Collingwood made 107....................Page 54

Football: Given their exhausting end-of-season programme, it is tempting to dismiss Middlesbrough's prospects for the Coca-Cola Cup final replay against Leicester City....................Page 56

ARTS

Youth triumphant: Richard Morrison follows the progress of the talented youth from London's high-rise estates about to perform *Miracles* at the Albert Hall Page 37

Dutch treat: The Palazzo Grassi, Fiat's cultural flagship in Venice, is the showcase for an exhibition of 20th-century Flemish and Dutch painting....................Page 38

The MP and the PM: Benedict Nightingale reviews Stephen Churchett's impressive playwrighting debut, *Tom and Clem*....................Page 39

Rising star: Robert Innes-Hopkins, at 27, has already been named Designer of the Year for his work at the Gate and the RSC. He is now working on a film and an installation....................Page 39

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ FILMS
Geoff Brown on Woody Allen's *Everyone Says I Love You* and other new releases

■ BOOKS
Russell Celyn Jones on Jonathan Keates's stories *Soon to be a Major Motion Picture*

FEATURES

Single minded: After years of research, Jane Shilling has come to the conclusion that, when shopping for clothes, you should never, ever go with anyone else. PLUS: Grace Bradberry on the apron strings of Junya Watanabe....................Page 20

THE PAPERS

The ayatollahs have reason to be worried by the EU's decision to suspend its "critical dialogue" with Iran. On the other hand, Rafsanjani's assertion that "the West needs us more than we need the West" ... contains a kernel of truth: the Europeans do need the Iranian market, and Italy — which has strong interests in Iran — has made clear it hopes the withdrawal of EU ambassadors is "temporary". *La Repubblica*

MEDIA

Brenda Maddox: In the end, all privacy codes fail because every case stands or fall on its merits. Is the intrusion in the public interest? The only all-purpose answer a code can give us is "sometimes" Page 26

Even handed: Tory and Labour supporters may complain about the bias of the tabloids, but the figures show that, for the most part, the papers are neutral....................Page 27

HOMES

Side by side: Terraced homes may be the solution to the need for high-density housing....................Page 47

[illegible]

Preview: Jury service can be bad for your health. *Modern Times* (BBC2, 9pm).

Review: Matthew Bond on men behaving sadly....................Pages 50, 51

[illegible]

British bulldogs

Dame Angela and her colleagues are doing democracy a double service, setting their face against its erosion and providing a real choice now, when it is most needed....................Page 23

Parents and politics

To call Mr Blair "phoney" for not much better reason than that it rhymes with "Tony" is less an act of criticism and more a piece of abuse....................Page 23

Work for St Helena

Britain still has world responsibilities; it owes a decent generosity to the subjects whose lives it still controls....................Page 23

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

Mr Blair's ideological wanderings during this election are becoming pathological. He seems without any anchor at all....................Page 22

ALAN COREN

Let others dispute the ownership of mangy lion and toothless bulldog, let others dispatch chickens to do their dirty work, we have the lizard. Its voracious little tongue flicks ever in and out, its eager eyes swivel separately and endlessly, missing nothing, and should anyone try to apprehend it, its tail comes off in their hands, freeing it to scuttle off and slither under the nearest stone, to fight another day....................Page 22

OBITUARIES

William Righter, former Reader in English and Comparative Literature at Warwick University; **Timothy Mason**, cellist; **Andrey Harvey**, journalist and charity worker....................Page 25

LETTERS

Labour's 'soundbite slogans'; election: burying London's past; 'colourised' films: Menuhin on Nigel Kennedy; medical consent; Tewkesbury battlefield; record birthweights; drugs and prisons; Lottery and the Church.....Page 23

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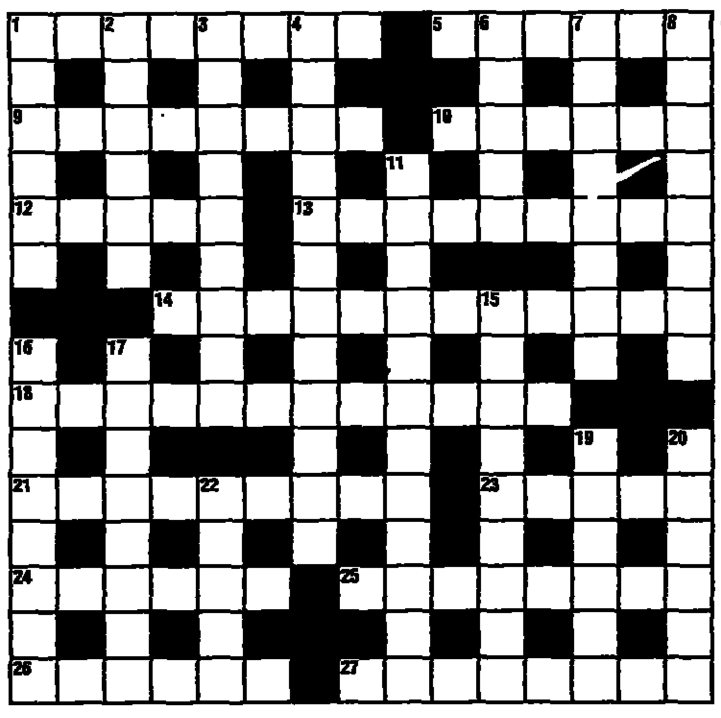

ACROSS
1 Our price is smashing — one can rake in the money (8).
5 Small bits of dirt in cable reported (6).
9 Speed gets someone well-known bowled out (8).
10 Economise, using fabric with minimum of pleating (6).
12 Caught in country road — puncture (5).
13 Type of instrument showing change around the hour (9).
14 Manage to complete the circle? (4,4,4).
18 Meddle and give an indication of wanting to row? (3,4,3,2).
21 In the beginning, the Lord erupts without silence! (9).
23 A male, boy? The reverse (5).
24 English legal extract (6).
25 Bone in old burial site, near the end (8).
26 Weapon's untidy ends switched (6).
27 Despatched to one hospital department not anaesthetised? (8).

DOWN
1 Plant left half cut under pile of straw (6).
2 Gaping fish go up to the top (6).
3 Mineral containing carbon found in unvarnished ceramic (9).
4 Additional account given in exuberant manner (12).
6 See copper on motorway — he may be passing through on a job (5).
7 Notes little brat with matches (8).
8 The month after summer hols a class may be different (8).
11 Garden plant's quality improved (8,4).
15 Insect — it's excited studier of nature (9).
16 Date ship at sea entered anchorage (8).
17 University of solid worth, from what we hear (8).
19 Game or beef? (6).
20 Eastern scholar criticised the thing audibly (6).
22 Sap's first appearing on tree, gluey stuff (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,454

I	T	A	L	I	C		D	E	C	K	H	A	N	D
	R		I		H		E			I		S		O
F	O	O	T	F	A	L	L		U	N	I	S	O	N
	U		E		L		I			D		I		A
S	P	A	R	K	L	E	R		P	R	O	S	I	T
	E		A		E		I			E		T		I
	R		C	O	N	F	U	S	E	D		E		O
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C		L		T	E	E	T	O	T	A	L		P	
S		E		R			R		E		E		P	
T	R	A	D	E	R		E	T	R	U	S	C	A	N
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[illegible]

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Newquay, Cornwall, 17C (63F); lowest day max: Fair Isle, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Manchester airport, 0.06in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall 12.2hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales should be dry with clear or sunny periods, the best of the sunshine probably in southern and western areas. Eastern England will become more cloudy later, perhaps with an odd shower in the southeast. It should be fairly warm in the west, but cooler in the east.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly dry with sunny spells, but northern Scotland may be cloudy with drizzle at times, these conditions extending later to eastern Scotland. Rather cool to the east, but warm in the southwest.

☐ **London, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Central N England:** dry with sunny periods Wind northeasterly, light, occasionally moderate. Warm Max 15C (59F)

☐ **SE England, E Anglia, E England:** dry with sunny spells, but becoming more cloudy later, perhaps with an odd shower. Wind northerly, moderate, occasionally fresh. Rather cool. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll:** dry with sunny spells. Wind mainly light, northerly. Warm. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** dry with sunny intervals Increasingly cloudy later, perhaps with some patchy drizzle. Wind northerly, moderate, occasionally fresh. Rather cool. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** rather cloudy, some drizzle at times. Wind northwesterly, moderate to fresh. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **N Ireland:** mainly dry with some sunny intervals, but the north may be cloudy with patchy drizzle. Wind north or northeast, mostly light Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Outlook:** mostly dry, but the north and east will be cloudier at times.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b= bright; c=cloud; d= drizzle; ds= dust storm, du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog. g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

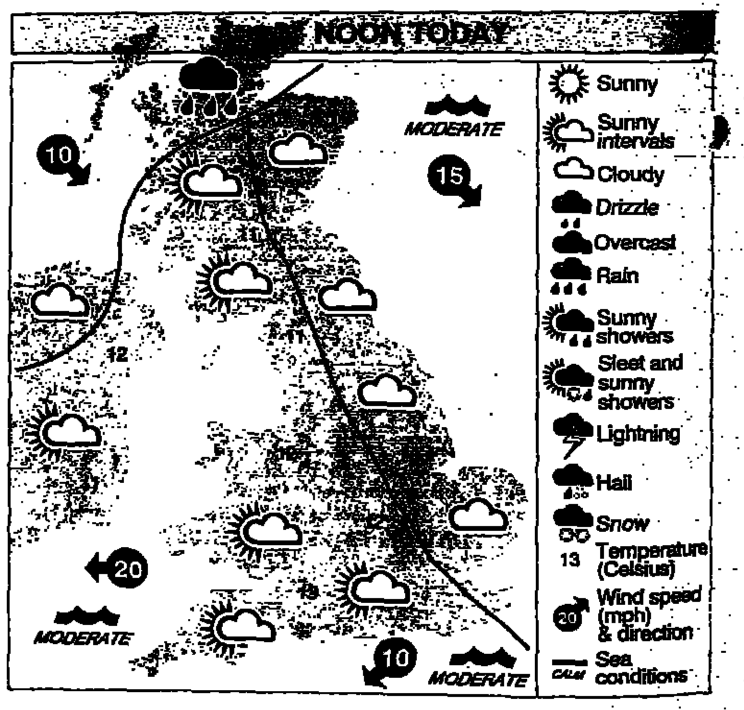
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	11.0	-	12	54	s
Anglesey	4.1	-	17	63	fg
Aspatria	9.5	0.03	15	59	s
Aviemore	9.7	-	15	59	s
Belfast	0.3	0.01	12	54	c
Birmingham	5.7	0.01	13	55	r
Bognor R	8.6	-	15	59	s
Bournem'th	5.1	-	13	55	s
Bristol	2.1	0.01	13	55	b
Buxton	6.9	0.01	12	54	s
Cardiff	1.4	0.01	12	54	c
Clacton	5.8	-	8	46	s
Cromer	5.7	0.01	9	48	b
Eastbourne	X	0.01	12	54	s
Edinburgh	6.3	-	14	57	c
Eskdalemuir	8.3	0.01	13	55	s
Exmouth	4.3	-	13	55	b
Falmouth	12.2	-	13	55	s
Fishguard	3.9	-	12	54	c
Folkestone	3.6	-	13	55	b
Glasgow	4.6	-	15	59	s
Guernsey	11.2	-	13	55	s
Hastings	8.8	-	11	52	s
Hayling I.	7.4	-	13	55	s
Hove	7.0	-	13	55	s
Hunstanton	X	-	9	48	c
Ilfracombe	X				
Isle of Man	3.7	0.01	11	52	s
Jersey	12.1	-	14	57	s
Kinloss	10.1	-	14	57	s
Leeds	9.0	0.01	14	57	s
Lerwick	10.6	0.01	8	46	d
Leuchars	7.7	-	14	57	s
Littlehmptn	8.7	-	14	57	s
London	10.4	0.01	12	54	s
Lowestoft	6.2	-	10	50	s
Manchester	5.8	0.06	15	59	s
Morecambe	7.7	0.02	13	55	s
Newcastle	10.7	0.01	10	50	s
Newquay	8.7	-	17	63	s
Norwich	3.1	0.01	10	50	b
Oxford	4.2	0.01	14	57	s
Penzance	X	-	16	61	s
Poole	4.2	-	15	59	s
Prestatyn	X	-	15	59	s
Ross-o-wye	3.1	0.03	14	57	s
Ryde	7.6	-	13	55	s
Salcombe	10.0	-	13	55	s
Sandown	7.2	-	12	54	s
Saunton Snd	1.3	-	16	61	b
Shanklin	7.6	-	11	52	s
Shrewsbury	4.5	0.01	13	55	s
Skegness	4.4	-	9	48	c
Southend	1.7	-	12	54	s
Southport	6.0	0.01	14	57	s
Southsea	7.7	-	13	55	s
Swanage	4.7		11	52	s
Teignmouth	6.1	-	13	55	b
Tenby	6.3	-	14	57	b
Tiree	5.6	-	12	54	s
Torquay	7.5	-	15	59	s
Tynemouth	-	-	8	46	s
Ventnor	7.3	-	15	59	s
Weymouth	3.4	-	12	54	b

ABROAD

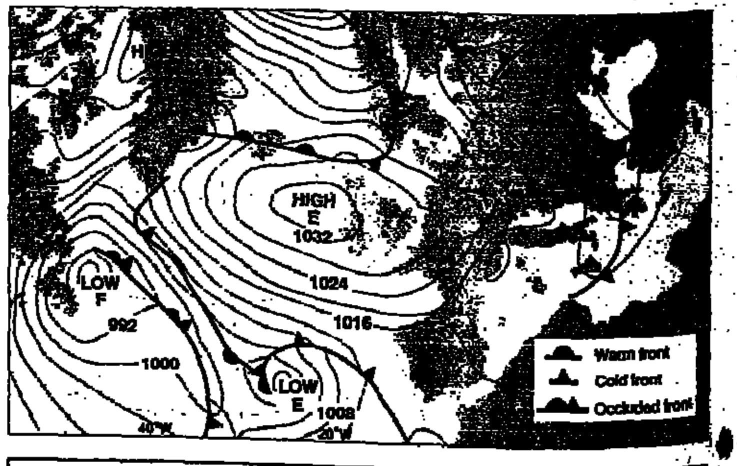
	C	F	
Ajaccio	18	64	s
Akrotiri	18	64	s
Alex'dria	20	68	f
Algiers	26	79	f
Amst'dm	10	50	c
Athens	13	55	s
B Aires	33	91	s
Bahrain	24	75	s
Bangkok	33	91	s
Barcelona	16	61	f
Beirut	19	66	f
Belgrade	9	48	f
Berlin	9	48	r
Bermuda	21	70	r
Biarritz	15	59	s
Borde'x	19	66	s
Brussels	11	52	s
Budapst	10	50	s
Cairo	24	75	s
Cape Tn	25	77	s
Ch'church	10	50	X
Chicago	9	48	s
Cologne	11	52	c
Corfu	12	54	s
C'phagn	10	50	f
Dublin	13	55	c
Dubrovnik	12	54	s
Faro	22	72	s
Florence	17	63	s
Frankfurt	10	50	c
Funchal	20	68	s
Geneva	13	55	s
Gibraltar	21	70	s
Helsinki	1	34	c
Hong K	26	79	f
Innsbrck	13	55	f
Istanbul	7	45	c
Jeddah	33	91	s
Jo'burg	17	63	f
L Angels	21	70	s
L Palmas	21	70	f
Le Touquet	12	54	f
Lisbon	22	72	s
Locarno	14	57	s
Luxembg	11	52	c
Luxor	39	102	s
Madrid	22	72	s
Majorca	22	72	s
Malaga	21	70	s
Malta	16	61	f
Melb'rne	17	63	c
Miami	25	77	r
Milan	16	61	s
Montreal	5	41	s
Moscow	4	39	f
Munich	11	52	c
N York	12	54	s
Nairobi	24	75	c
Naples	16	61	s
Nice	17	63	s
Oslo	8	46	c
Paris	15	59	s
Peking	18	64	s
Perth	26	79	s
Prague	7	45	c
Reykjavik	7	45	c
Rhodes	14	57	s
Rio de J	27	81	s
Riyadh	33	91	s
Rome	17	63	f
S Fr'isco	15	59	s
S Paulo	28	82	c
Salzburg	10	50	f
Santiago	27	81	s
Seoul	20	68	s
Sing'por	31	88	f
St'kholm	6	43	s
Strasb'rg	15	59	f
Sydney	26	79	s
Tangier	21	70	f
Tel Aviv	21	70	f
Tenerife	23	73	c
Tokyo	21	70	f
Toronto	7	45	s
Tunis	21	70	s
Valencia	20	68	s
Vanc'ver	10	50	f
Venice	13	55	f
Vienna	11	52	f
Warsaw	6	43	c
Wash'ton	13	55	s
Wel'ngton	13	55	X
Zurich	12	54	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Monday X — not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: high E will drift slowly northwest and decline; Low E should fill as it moves slowly north, then northwest. Low F should fill in si



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	09.19	5.9	21.45	5.7
Aberdeen	09.30	3.3	22.27	3.3
Avonmouth	02.05	9.5	15.03	9.3
Belfast	06.57	3.0	19.54	2.8
Cardiff	01.51	8.9	14.49	8.8
Devonport	00.35	4.3	13.35	4.1
Dover	07.01	5.1	19.35	5.2
Dublin (N Wall)	07.51	3.5	20.36	3.4
Falmouth	00.06	4.1	13.06	3.9
Greenock	07.17	2.7	21.15	2.5
Harwich	07.21	3.0	19.47	2.9
Holyhead	06.22	4.4	19.20	4.3
Hull (Albert D)	01.48	6.7	14.05	6.9
Ilfracombe	01.16	6.7	14.06	6.6
King's Lynn	02.11	4.6	14.23	4.7
Leith	10.34	4.3	23.21	4.3
Liverpool	06.57	7.2	19.50	7.1
Lowestoft	06.02	2.1	17.39	2.1
Margate	07.47	3.8	20.09	3.6
Milford Haven	01.36	5.1	14.24	4.9
Newquay	00.37	5.2	13.25	5.0
Oban	02.15	2.8	14.55	2.8
Penzance	00.09	4.2	12.59	4.1
Portland	01.38	1.2	15.21	1.0
Portsmouth	07.18	3.5	20.08	3.7
Shoreham	06.47	4.5	19.40	4.7
Southampton	06.27	3.5	19.27	3.6
Swansea	01.39	7.2	14.22	7.1
Tees	11.39	4.2		
Walton-on-N	07.21	3.2	19.51	3.1

All times GMT Heights in metres

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.03 am
Sun sets: 7.59 pm
Moon sets 3.25 am
Moon rises 1.29 pm

London 7.59 pm to 6.01 am
Bristol 8.09 pm to 6.11 am
Edinburgh 8.22 pm to 6.03 am
Manchester 8.12 pm to 6.05 am
Penzance 8.18 pm to 6.25 am

Full moon April 22

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WEDNESDAY APRIL 16 1997

RK

Fiscal squeezes 'unsustainable'

Euro doubts push pound to five-year high

By Alasdair Murray in Frankfurt and Oliver August in London

THE pound soared to its highest level for nearly five years yesterday as the forerunner to Europe's central bank voiced new doubts over Europe's monetary union.

Alexandre Lamfalussy, president of the European Monetary Institute, said the chances of the single currency proceeding on schedule in 1999 were only "significantly above 50 per cent". He also buttressed growing concern about the status of the single European currency by confirming that the institute would not insist on candidates to join the new euro meeting all the tests laid down in the Maastricht Treaty.

The pound was the main beneficiary on the markets, where traders assume it will not join in from the start. This puts further strain on Britain's monetary policy, since any rise in interest rates to forestall domestic inflation is likely to *push sterling up further and* hit UK manufacturers.

Sterling breached the 100 mark on its trade-weighted index for the first time since Black Wednesday in 1992 as it continued to storm past the world's other big currencies. By the Bank of England close, it had regained its 1990 par *value at 100.1.Sterling pushed* up from 2.7960 marks to *DM2.8183 in London.* It was also strong against the dollar, *which dropped 0.34 cents to* $1.6257 after news of a small *rise in US inflation.*

The EMI said that too many EU countries are relying on unsustainable measures to cut government debt to levels demanded by the Maastricht Treaty. He said delay in implementing a single currency "could wreck the whole programme" by allowing member states to lose this painful budgetary discipline.

In its third annual report, the EMI also launched a stinging attack on the European Union's "dismal" job creation record, warning that unemployment could pose a serious threat to the success of a single currency. It urged cuts in labour costs and labour market reforms. Otherwise, the EMI argues, divergent unemployment records could place a major strain on the single currency.

Stock Market..................32

The EMI, which is due to become the European Central Bank at the beginning of 1999, is charged with preparing a report early next year on the suitability of candidates for monetary union.

M Lamfalussy suggested *that it would be taking a broad* view, despite warnings from *Britain and Germany that the* convergence tests contained in *the Maastricht Treaty must be* strictly applied for a single *currency to succeed.*

He said that the Maastricht *Treaty allows room for some* deviation from the convergence targets, although he added that the sustainability of an individual government's fiscal position would need to be proven.

M Lamfalussy refused to be drawn about which countries might fail to meet the criteria, despite heavy criticism about the long-term durability of measures adopted by countries such as Italy and Belgium to reduce their deficit and debt ratios.

M Lamfalussy said that final decisions would only be taken in a year's time on the basis of data for the whole of 1997.

Nick Stamenkovic, an economist at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson said: "The EMI's latest annual report has raised concern about the fiscal position in Europe, in general, and in Germany."

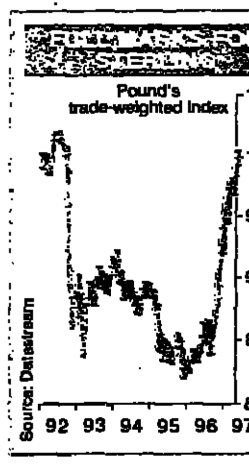
Jörg Krämer at Merrill Lynch said: "The Bundesbank should have started to hike interest rates in the autumn of last year."

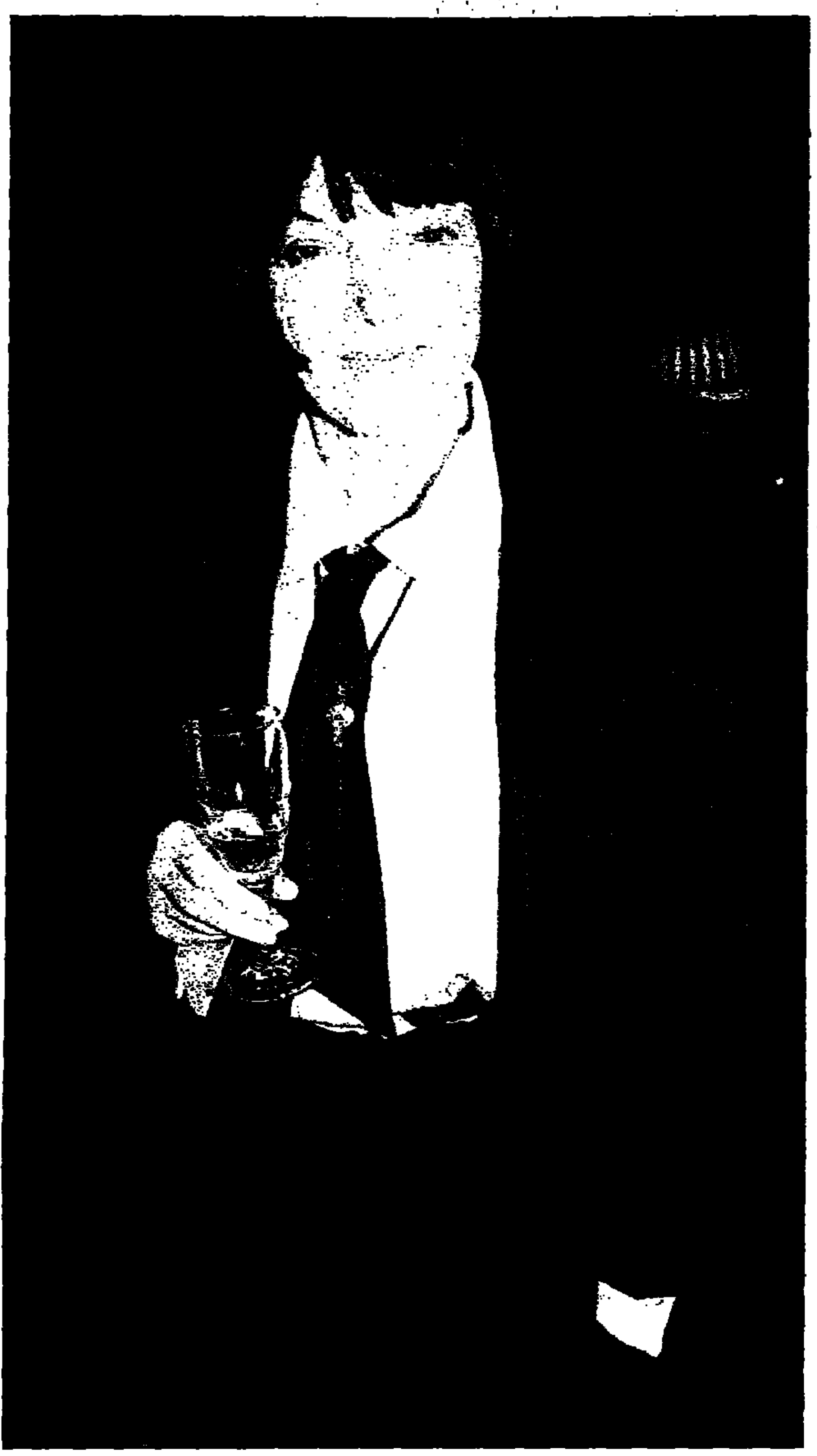
The pound's continued rise will add to the headaches of British exporters who already *complain about being squeezed* out of international markets at *current sterling prices.*

An immediate UK interest *rate increase, which would* boost sterling further, looks *less likely after the sterling* hike. Figures for producer *prices, released on Monday,* show that sterling's recovery *last autumn has already sub*dued any inflation pressures *from industry.*

City analysts said that, who*ever is* Chancellor after the election will want to protect exporters from further damaging exchange rate movements, hoping that domestic inflationary pressures will be choked off by the rising pound.

Further rises in sterling would, however, pose a problem for Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, if he reached the Treasury. Market *traders assume that, in order* to establish his credibility, Mr Brown would raise base rates a week after taking office, *following his first head-to-head meeting with* Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.





Mary Quant, whose cosmetics empire makes royalties of about £160 million a year

Quant to join House of Fraser board

By Jon Ashworth

MARY QUANT, the fashion *icon who put the swing in the* King's Road, is lending her charms to House of Fraser, the dowdy old dame of high street retailing.

Ms Quant, 63, becomes a non-executive director of the department stores group, which takes in Army & Navy and Dickins & Jones. Her first shop, Bazaar, opened in Chelsea in 1955 and gave birth to the era of mini-skirts, white PVC raincoats, and skinny-rib polo-neck sweaters.

There are those who suspect that House of Fraser is out of step with the times. The company has struggled to find its way since the Fayed brothers unleashed it on the stock market three years ago. The shares, floated at 180p, were up ½p at 164p yesterday, before tomorrow's publication of the 1996 results. House of Fraser announced in January that it was to cut 1,000 jobs and clear out unwanted stock in an attempt to become competitive.

Ms Quant's arrival could herald a much-needed face-lift. Her cosmetics empire sells through more than 200 outlets in Japan alone, and makes about £160 million a year in royalties.

Brian McGowan, chairman of House of Fraser, said: "Her experience of the fashion and *retail business worldwide,* gained over many years, will *be of immense value and help* to House of Fraser, a leader in *UK fashion and cosmetics.*"

Ms Quant issued a state*ment, saying:* "House of Fraser has progressive ideas *for the growth of their stores,* and I look forward to making a positive contribution to the group's future success."

Pennington, page 31

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4286.8	(+35.1)
Yield	3.77%	
FTSE All share	2084.16	(+14.16)
Nikkei	17933.59	(+241.12)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6540.60	(+88.70)*
S&P Composite	752.33	(+8.60)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 9/16%*	(5 7/16%)
Long Bond	94 9/32*	(93 11/32)
Yield	7.09%*	(7.17%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 11/32%	(6 3/8%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	109¾	(108 27/32)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6265*	(1.6203)
London:		
$	1.6254	(1.6227)
DM	2.8199	(2.7964)
FFr	9.4775	(9.4047)
SFr	2.3915	(2.3829)
Yen	205.34	(205.00)
£ Index	100.1	(99.4)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7335*	(1.7305)
FFr	5.8280*	(5.8210)
SFr	1.4695*	(1.4710)
Yen	126.32*	(126.58)
$ Index	106.1	(106.0)

Tokyo close Yen 126.10

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$18.20	($18.40)

GOLD

London close	$341.75	($346.55)

* denotes midday trading price

Mutual friends

A majority of members of Bristol & West and Northern Rock yesterday voted in favour of their societies abandoning mutuality, although there was anger at both meetings. **Page 30**

British boost

Peugeot, the French car maker, gave British industry *a £100 million vote of* confidence by announcing that it will build a new supermini in Coventry, *safeguarding almost 3,000* jobs. **Page 35**

BT investors back £13bn MCI deal

By Eric Reguly

BT MOVED a step closer to becoming a global telecommunications powerhouse yesterday when shareholders overwhelmingly approved the £13 billion takeover of MCI, America's second largest long-distance phone company.

BT said that about 98.5 per cent of shareholders voted in favour. The enlarged company, to be called Concert, awaits regulatory approval in America and Europe. MCI shareholders approved the deal earlier this month.

Concert will emerge as the world's fourth *largest* telecoms group, behind NTT of Japan, AT&T *of America and* Deutsche Telekom. BT and MCI have an *estimated 6 per* cent share of the global market. *But outside the* US and UK only 17 per cent of the market is *open to competition,* a figure that probably will rise to more than 90 per *cent by the* turn of the century. *Sir* Iain Vallance, *the BT chairman* who is to become co-chairman of Concert, said: "Were we to do nothing more than hold on to that 6 per cent, Concert would have revenues of £34 billion within a few years."

BT has owned 20 per cent of MCI since 1994 and is paying a premium of about 30 per cent *for the rest. BT has said* the merger will initially dilute earnings *by about 5 per cent* and will yield savings of £1.5 *billion in the first five years* by combining certain operations.

Analysts are divided about the merger benefits. Robert Fleming, the broker, said it is sceptical about Concert's forecasts of a 6 per cent annual dividend rise when severe competition is slashing the prices of international calls. BT closed 2½p up, at 440½.

Being Americanised, page 33

Brokers face levy on society deals

By Gavin Lumsden

CRESTCO, the operator of Crest, the Stock Exchange's paperless trading system, is to *penalise stockbrokers* who ignore its attempts to avert a potential settlement crisis brought on by windfall shares *from five demutualising building* societies.

Last month CrestCo announced it would allow stock*brokers to batch 100 deals* in converting societies into one *trade. Yesterday it said that* from Monday, the date of the *Alliance & Leicester flotation,* it would charge £1 for every unbatched deal put through Crest on top of its normal 75p levy. A spokesman said the "cost disincentive" would be increased if the broking community did not comply.

The move follows confirmation from Alliance & Leicester yesterday that 1.1 million of its members had opted to hold free shares in the company in certificate form. If repeated in the flotations of the Halifax, Woolwich, Norwich Union and Northern Rock it would create 8.7 million new share certificates. This would pose a severe strain on Crest, which *works* best with electronic nominee systems that dis*pense with certificates.*

Shares in Alliance & *Leicester are forecast to reach* between 460p and 480p at a *series of auctions to* institutional investors starting this Friday. Analysts are waiting to see how they perform before pricing the remaining demutualisations.

The Stock Exchange has prevented an unofficial grey market in demutualisation shares on the grounds that they are not offers in the way of the privatisations of the 1980s.

Mutuality ended, page 30

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Friends Provident	41.58
Black Horse Life	46.38
Scottish Amicable	48.00
Scottish Life	58.51
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Nationwide Life	83.50
Barclays Life	86.00
Friends Provident	88.99
Black Horse Life	101.68
Scottish Amicable	108.00
Scottish Life	137.40
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Direct Life & Pension Services Limited is an Appointed Representative of Ward Mortgages Limited who are Independent Financial Advisers regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for investment business.
Registered in England no. 2813275

Formal move by watchdog on disciplinary proceedings

SFA to detail complaints on Fidelity

By Robert Miller

A SENIOR City watchdog is to take the *unprecedented step* of detailing the number of complaints received by *investors about* Fidelity Brokerage, the retail stockbroking arm of the world's largest fund *manager.*

Last October, the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), *which polices* brokers and futures traders, took the highly unusual *step of banning* Fidelity Brokerage, which has 30,000 clients, from signing up new investors *until the* end of January.

The ban was then *extended to the* end of this month. Last night SFA officials said that no *decision had yet* been taken on whether the sanctions on new business would be lifted within the next two weeks.

In the forthcoming issue of its *Briefing* magazine the SFA will set out in detail the complaints received from aggrieved Fidelity clients, many of whom suffered losses because of administrative mistakes and have been compensated. The SFA, which *regulates* 1,350 City firms, says that in the first nine months of its current *financial year* to the end of December nearly a third of the 634 complaints *received concerned* Fidelity Brokerage.

The SFA has now taken formal steps *"to initiate disciplinary proceedings"* against the broking firm. This could result in action being taken against some senior individuals. More likely, however, is that the firm will incur a fine based on the time it has taken to clear up the problems that began last May when it switched to a new computer and administrative system at the same time as launching a major advertising campaign for new clients. Many dividend cheques failed to be credited to the right bank accounts at the correct time.

The SFA action against Fidelity Brokerage is an embarrassment for its parent company, owned by the Ameri*can family of Edward C. Johnson III.* It has sought to build a worldwide reputation for *prudent fund management* on behalf of millions of pension fund clients and investors.

In financial terms the SFA ban has meant that Fidelity Brokerage has just missed out on the rush at the end of tax year to invest in personal equity plans. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this pep season was one of the busiest on record.

Phil West, a Fidelity Brokerage manager, said yesterday: "The SFA review procedure has not been completed and we do not want to prejudge the issue. However, we are pleased with the progress made so far."

Mutuality ended at B&W and Northern

By Caroline Merrell and Gavin Lumsden

AN overwhelming majority of members of Bristol & West and Northern Rock yesterday voted in favour of their societies abandoning mutuality, although angry scenes occurred at both extraordinary meetings.

In total, 96 per cent of Bristol and West members accepted a £600 million takeover by the Bank of Ireland. John Burke, chief executive, said that he was delighted with the result. However, it came only after a group of about 100 protesters had atttempted to adjourn the meeting in Shepton Mallett, Somerset, claiming the society was worth at least £1 billion.

A ballot of the 300-plus members present decided against an adjournment by 190 to 103. A subsequent vote on accepting the takeover was won overwhelmingly, with more than 800,000 of the society's one million members having already voted by post.

Michael Hardern, from London, said that he had been a member for two years and would receive a cash payment of £506 following the takeover. He added that 75 per cent of members would receive windfalls of £714, compared with £1,400 received by members of other societies floated on the stock market.

But Lord Armstrong, B&W chairman, said: "We have kept the proposal to transfer the society's business to the Bank of Ireland and we continue to believe it can best maximise the society's potential through the proposed combination with the Bank of Ireland group."

Meanwhile, 97 per cent of Northern Rock members voted in favour of its proposals to convert to a public limited company. Of the 650,000 investing members, 520,000 voted in favour. Of the 250,000 borrowing members, 175,000 voted in favour. Only 20,000 voted against the resolution.

The society, which will have a market capitalisation of £1 billion, is expected to float in October. Each of the 900,000 qualifying members will get an equal distribution of 500 shares, which will be on average worth £1,400 — the highest average payout from the four converting societies.

At an EGM yesterday in Newcastle attended by about 650 members of the society, the board faced questions about the structure of the deal. Members wanted to know why shares were not to be distributed according to how much money savers had with the society.

Robert Dickinson, chairman, defended the society's decision to opt for a flat distribution. He said: "Even Solomon would have found it difficult to devise a distribution scheme that would have satisfied everyone." He added: "Eighty per cent of members are better off under this conversion scheme."

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.18	2.02
Austria Sch	20.68	19.18
Belgium Fr	60.88	56.38
Canada $	2.383	2.213
Cyprus Cyp£	0.868	0.808
Denmark Kr	11.23	10.43
Finland Mkk	8.90	8.22
France Fr	9.87	9.17
Germany Dm	2.96	2.74
Greece Dr	456	430
Hong Kong $	13.90	12.20
Iceland	127	107
Ireland Pt	1.10	1.02
Israel Shk	5.80	5.15
Italy Lira	2906	2706
Japan Yen	218.70	202.70
Malta	0.659	0.604
Netherlds Gld	3.335	3.065
New Zealand $	2.50	2.28
Norway Kr	11.83	11.03
Portugal Esc	292.00	272.00
S Africa Rd	7.83	7.03
Spain Pta	246.50	229.50
Sweden Kr	13.19	12.19
Switzerland Fr	2.51	2.33
Turkey Lira	220594	206594
USA $	1.720	1.590

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

ROBIN MAYES

Richard Holland, left, chief executive of Boosey & Hawkes, and Peter Austen, finance director, after the music publisher and instrument maker reported a 24.8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £7.7 million for 1996. A final dividend of 7.43p makes a total of 9.34p

ABF sacks NatWest over investment target failure

By Robert Miller

NATWEST has been fired as a money manager by Associated British Foods (ABF), one of its long-standing and most prestigious clients, for failing to reach performance targets.

ABF, which saw its investment income fall by £6 million, to £22 million, in the six months to March 31, has some £1 billion of cash managed on a conservative, risk-averse basis by four City institutions, which are expected to perform to a "benchmark". Mike Bishop, a director of Gartmore, the fund manager bought by NatWest last year for £472 million, said last night: "We very much regret ... that we failed to meet the performance targets." Gartmore is believed to have been caught out by the strength of sterling.

The ABF performance benchmarks are made up of two stages. The first comprises a mixture of interest rates available in the professional money markets and the performance of UK pension fund managers in general. ABF, headed by Garry Weston, then sets an additional performance "target", which is generally 1 to 2 per cent above the benchmark.

As well as investing in UK fixed-interest bonds and other sterling instruments, NatWest's mandate from ABF also allowed it to invest in overseas deposits and bonds denominated in other major currencies such as the yen, dollar and mark.

Call for tax to hit smaller water concerns

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

THE Labour Party is believed to be considering extending its planned windfall tax across the entire water industry despite the fact that 20 local companies claim to have had none of the windfall benefits of privatisation.

The local companies serving about a quarter of the population of England and Wales believed they had been guaranteed exemption from Labour's plans. But yesterday a spokesman for Gordon Brown said that the Shadow Chancellor had given no assurance to any company over the remit of the windfall tax.

Pressure to include the companies is coming from Britain's biggest water companies, who argue that all suppliers should be treated equally in the levy of the anticipated £3 billion-plus windfall tax.

The 20 smaller water-only companies did not enjoy the tax advantages of the larger privatised companies. But the bigger water businesses argue that all water companies be included because the smaller ones are regulated and enjoy monopolies. Labour could also face tough legal obstacles if it applied a tax to just one part of an industry.

Nicholas Hood, chairman of Wessex Water, one of the ten privatised companies, said: "It seems strange that companies that have also got a regional monopoly and are regulated are not necessarily candidates for the windfall tax.

"I recognise that they did not get the green dowry, but that has been overtaken by the regulatory process."

The smaller companies, supplying water to 12.85 million people but not dealing with sewerage, have been in the private sector for far longer than the water and sewerage companies privatised in 1989.

These companies opted to maintain independence under statutory status when the water industry was overhauled by the Water Act 1973 that led to the creation of the ten large authorities. Those authorities were sold in 1989 with tax concessions to allow for capital expenditure on infrastructure.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

L&G chief nets £1m profit in share sale

DAVID PROSSER, group chief executive of Legal & General, and his wife made a profit of just over £1 million from share options yesterday when they sold 470,000 shares, half of Mr Prosser's total holding. Mr Prosser bought the shares at prices between 146p and 203p and transferred them to his wife, Rosemary, who then sold them at 391p per share. L&G said that the sale was to generate cash "for personal use".

L&G's new business figures, which are expected to show strong growth, will be released in July. L&G shares have been rising strongly since last July, when they stood at 266p, a 12-month low. Yesterday the shares rose 4p to close at 392½p, although they remain at a discount to a high for 1997 of 418½p. Expected strong growth from life new business, and the expectation of future dividend growth from L&G's inherited estate — surplus assets in the long-term life fund belonging to shareholders — has stimulated a demand for shares.

Eyecare chief departs

EYECARE, the manufacturer of designer spectacles, has parted company with Andre Cohen, its chief executive, after a boardroom dispute over how to resolve problems in France. Mr Cohen is understood to have proposed a solution which was opposed by Martin Franklin, non-executive chairman. Mr Franklin now intends to take a more "hands-on" role, and the management of its French operations will remain in place. Three months ago Eyecare said that problems in France — where it produces 90 per cent of its glasses — would hit profits.

Girovend stake sold

MATTHEW ALLEN, the chief executive of Girovend Cashless Systems, has sold 17 per cent of his stake in the cashcard company. The sale comes one month after Mr Allen brought the company to the market. Mr Allen, one of the entrepreneurs who helped to float PizzaExpress, raised £292,000 from selling the shares at 195p apiece, reducing his holding to 5.58 per cent. The company's shares, which were placed at 160p four weeks ago, were unchanged at 196½p yesterday.

Carlton karaoke blow

CARLTON COMMUNICATIONS, the British broadcasting and media services company, is to make a provision of up to £4 million against the liquidation of Channel KTV, a karaoke music television business in Singapore that broadcasts music videos on satellite and cable television and in clubs and hotels. Carlton revealed yesterday that it had been informed of the liquidation by the board of KTV and that KTV intended to seek voluntary liquidation. Carlton was a minority shareholder. Shares in Carlton rose 4p to 498½p yesterday.

News Ltd appointment

LACHLAN MURDOCH will assume overall responsibility for the Australian operations of News Ltd, the News Corporation's Australasian holding company, it was announced yesterday. The move follows the retirement of Ken Cowley as executive chairman. Mr Murdoch, 25, managing director of News Ltd, is the elder son of Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corp, the parent company of *The Times*. Mr Cowley had been with News Ltd for 33 years, joining in 1964 to launch *The Australian*.

Alexon options used

JOHN OSBORN, chief executive of Alexon, the women's clothing group, has taken advantage of its shares' tenfold rise by realising stock options at a profit of £257,000. Robin Piggott, finance director, has made a £95,000 profit selling options. Mr Osborn, who has used only a fifth of his option allocation, was brought into Alexon four years ago when it was losing £12 million a year. After his reforms, including the launch of the Ann Harvey big-size range, Alexon made £10.1 million in 1996.

Finlay hit by tea fears

SHARES of James Finlay fell 10p to 94½p in spite of the food producer lifting pre-tax profits from £3.6 million to £12 million for 1996 on sales up from £166 million to £169 million. Earnings per share rose to 6.8p (nil). The total dividend rises to 3.65p (3.15p) after payment of an unchanged second interim dividend of 2.15p. The shares fell after a statement from Finlay on weak tea markets in the first half of the current year, although a recovery is expected in the second half.

New business up at CU

NEW LIFE insurance business at Commercial Union rose 20 per cent last year and another strong increase is expected in 1997, John Carter, chief executive, said yesterday. Speaking at the annual shareholders' meeting, Mr Carter said CU expected to report next month "a good increase in profits compared to the first quarter of 1996". He said winter weather in the northern hemisphere, including North America, had "been relatively kind to us". The shares fell 3½p to 648p.

MtM raises £1.7m

MOLECULES TO MARKET, a Belfast firm chaired by John Precious, former finance director of Wellcome, has raised £1.7 million in a private placing of shares. The firm, which has 13 employees, is working on rapid testing kits for allergies, genital herpes and diabetes, and has developed a database describing the symptoms of 220 skin conditions. MtM has also signed up with an online service that will enable the firm to provide an information service to 50,000 US physicians.

Murray's value slips

MURRAY VCT, the £20 million venture capital trust, saw a 2.3p fall in net asset value per share to 92.68p in the half year to February 28 in spite of a sharp rise in an investment, made in July, of £500,000 at 120p a share in Dobbie & Co, the garden centre operator, which joined the Alternative Investment Market just after the half year at £2 a share. Dobbie shares have since risen to £2.60. Murray is lifting its interim dividend to 1p, from 0.78p, and expects to at least maintain a 1.91p final.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

Company No: 34603
GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED ("the Company")
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held at Gloucester Rugby Football Club, Kingsholm, Gloucester on 18 April 1997 at 11am for the purpose of considering and if thought fit passing the following resolutions:-
ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS
1. THAT the capital of the Company be and is hereby increased from £4,000 to £12,000 by the creation of 8,000 new ordinary shares of £1.00 each to rank pari passu in all respects with the existing shares in the capital of the Company.
2. THAT the directors be and they are hereby generally and unconditionally authorised pursuant to Section 80 of the Companies Act 1985 ("the Act") to exercise any power of the Company to allot relevant securities (as defined in Section 80(2) of the Act) up to a maximum nominal amount of £8,517 such authority to expire at the end of one month after the date of the Meeting at which this Resolution is passed unless previously revoked or varied by the Company in general meeting and the Directors shall have the power to allot shares pursuant to the authority contained in this Resolution as if section 89(1) of the Act did not apply to such allotment.
SPECIAL RESOLUTION
3. THAT the Articles of Association of the Company be and are hereby amended by the deletion in its entirety of the existing clause 5 and the renumbering of the existing clauses 6 to 41 (inclusive) as clauses 5 to 40 (inclusive) provided that such amendment shall not apply to any allotment of shares pursuant to the authority granted by resolution 2 above.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
A D Wadley Esq, Secretary
Dated 11 April 1997
Registered Office:- Kingsholm, Gloucester, GL1 3AX
Note:
1. A member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and on a poll vote instead of him. A proxy need not also be a member of the Company.
2. To be effective the instrument appointing a proxy and any power of attorney or other authority under which it is executed (or a duly certified copy of any such power or authority) must be deposited at the Company's registered office not less than Forty-eight hours before the time appointed for holding the meeting.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: The Institute of Tibetan Studies, 314166
Scheme
Reference: CED/44224/CD(Ldn)
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity.
A copy can be seen for the next month at the offices of Winckworth & Pemberton at 35 Great Peter Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3LR or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the reference above.

BALUN, PETER BALUN late of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire died there on 14 May 1996 (Estate about £4,000)
BARNETT, ARTHUR GEORGE FREDERICK BARNETT otherwise ARTHUR GEORGE BARNETT late of Dawlish, Devon died there on 31 March 1996 (Estate about £5,000)
BIRCH, DOROTHEA ENNA BIRCH WIDOW late of Denbigh, Clwyd died there on 23 December 1995 (Estate about £8,000)
BLAKEMORE, GEORGE WILLIAM BLAKEMORE late of Wolverhampton, West Midlands died there on 24 May 1996 (Estate about £6,000)
BOLT, LESLIE BOLT late of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire died at Warwick on 27 December 1996 (Estate about £30,000)
CROWTHER nee HIRST, MINNIE CROWTHER nee HIRST WIDOW late of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire died there on 14 October 1994 (Estate about £17,400)
EARNSHAW, VIOLET EARNSHAW SPINSTER late of Roehampton, London SW15 died there on 7 March 1996 (Estate about £7,500)
EUDEN, JOYCE GLADYS EUDEN SPINSTER late of Sidmouth, Devon died there on 26 July 1994 (Estate about £10,000)
FLETCHER, JAMES ARNOLD FLETCHER late of Lincoln died there on 13 July 1996 (Estate about £120,000)
JONES formerly DRAPER nee WHEAT, WINIFRED MAY JONES formerly DRAPER nee WHEAT late of Nottingham died there on 29 December 1996 (Estate about £23,000)
KNOWLES, JOHN HALL KNOWLES late of Chichester, West Sussex died at Islington, London N1 on 14 July 1994 (Estate about £75,000)
MASLANKA, JAN MASLANKA late of Nottingham died there on 21 February 1994 (Estate about £11,000)
NASTALY, FRANCISZEK NASTALY late of Winsford, Cheshire died at Crewe, Cheshire on 30 April 1996 (Estate about £42,000)
NOOR, ABDOOL NOOR otherwise ABDUL NOOR late of Gillingham, Kent died there on 5 March 1996 (Estate about £4,000)
OWENS, LESLIE OWENS otherwise SHAUN LESLIE OWENS late of Deal, Kent died at Canterbury, Kent on 6 February 1997 (Estate about £60,000)
PHILLIPS, THOMAS PHILLIPS late of Birmingham, West Midlands died there on 16 August 1996 (Estate about £150,000)
POTTER nee BROWN, CHARLOTTE ELLEN POTTER nee BROWN WIDOW late of St Asaph, Clwyd died there on 19 June 1996 (Estate about £20,000)
RICHARDSON, TOM RICHARDSON late of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire died there on 31 December 1996 (Estate about £26,000)
RIGBY, ERNEST EVAN RIGBY late of Stroud, Gloucestershire died at Gloucester on 8 February 1997 (Estate about £100,000)
TITTERINGTON formerly AITKEN nee BAKER otherwise PUZEY, IVY TITTERINGTON formerly AITKEN nee BAKER otherwise PUZEY WIDOW late of Keighley, West Yorkshire died there on 26 April 1996 (Estate about £7,000)
WILSON nee COWIE, MARY WILSON nee COWIE WIDOW late of Eastbourne, East Sussex died there on 23 May 1994 (Estate about £30,000)
The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
YRM Partnership Limited
Registered number: 02112123
Nature of business: Architectural & Technical
Trade classification: 7420
Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 9 April 1997
Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s) Midland Bank Plc
Names of administrative receivers & Office Holder Nos: Michael David Gercke 2360, Kevin James David Ellis 8722.
Addresses: No.1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL

LEGAL NOTICES

Bentley Limited
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 24th April 1997 at 12.00 for the purposes provided in Section 98 et seq.
It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meeting concerning Liquidators remuneration, however the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.
A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
DATED THIS 3rd April 1997
W Conroy - Director

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
YRM Trading
Registered number: 02108196
Nature of business: Dormant
Trade classification: 7420
Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 9 April 1997
Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s) Midland Bank Plc
Names of administrative receivers & Office Holder Nos: Michael David Gercke 2360, Kevin James David Ellis 8722.
Addresses: No.1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL

ERRATUM
A notice which appeared on Friday 11th April, in the matter of 'WAFTER TECHNOLOGY LIMITED' should have read 'WAFER TECHNOLOGY LIMITED'.

NOTICE TO:-
GHOUS ALI CHAUDRY
Case No: M402/97
An action has been raised in Glasgow Sheriff Court by ISHRAT JAVID JABBAR or CHAUDRY (known as ISHRAT JAVID), Pursuer, calling as a Defender, GHOUS ALI CHAUDRY, whose last known address was c/o Amin, 23 Stanford Road, Longsight, Manchester. If GHOUS ALI CHAUDRY, Defender, wishes to defend the action or make any claim or seek any order he should immediately contact the Sheriff Clerk at 1 Carlton Place, Glasgow from whom the service copy Initial Writ may be obtained. If he fails to do so decree may be granted against him.
ROGER DUBAR
Ross Harper & Murphy
Solicitors
163 Ingram Street,
Glasgow
G1 1DW
Agent for Pursuer

The Insolvency Act 1986
In the Matter of
Tithetree Limited
NOTICE is hereby given that the Creditors of the above named Company are required on or before 27th May 1997 to send their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the undersigned Andrew White of Moores Rowland, Nile House, PO Box 1041, Nile Street, Brighton, BN1 1LA the Liquidator of the said company, and if so required by notice in writing by the said Liquidator, are by their Solicitors, or personally, to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated 14th April 1997
Andrew White - Liquidator

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
LBB Consulting Limited
Registered number: 02271496
Former Company name(s): YRM ISIS Limited, Hunt Projects Limited
Nature of business: Dormant
Trade classification: 7499
Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 9 April 1997
Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s) Midland Bank Plc
Names of administrative receivers & Office Holder Nos: Michael David Gercke 2360, Kevin James David Ellis 8722.
Addresses: No.1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
YRM Management Services Ltd
Registered number: 00625494
Nature of business: Dormant
Trade classification: 7499
Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 9 April 1997
Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s) Midland Bank Plc
Names of administrative receivers & Office Holder Nos: Michael David Gercke 2360, Kevin James David Ellis 8722.
Addresses: No.1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
YRM Engineers Ltd
Registered number: 03078978
Former company name(s): Kendall Limited, Optionfactor Limited
Nature of business: Dormant
Trade classification: 7420
Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 9 April 1997
Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s) Midland Bank Plc
Names of administrative receivers & Office Holder Nos. Michael David Gercke 2360, Kevin James David Ellis 8722.
Addresses: No.1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
YRM Architects & Planners Ltd
Registered number: 03083332
Former Company name(s): Limbgrace Limited
Nature of business: Dormant
Trade classification: 7420
Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 9 April 1997
Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s) Midland Bank Plc
Names of administrative receivers & Office Holder Nos: Michael David Gercke 2360, Kevin James David Ellis 8722.
Addresses: No.1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
Anthony Hunt Associates Limited
Registered number: 03078977
Former company name(s): Offergrid Limited
Nature of business: Dormant
Trade classification: PA4521
Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 9 April 1997
Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s) Midland Bank Plc
Names of administrative receivers & Office Holder Nos: Michael David Gercke 2360, Kevin James David Ellis 8722.
Addresses: No.1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
YRM Facilities Limited
Registered number: 02420700
Former Company name(s): Yorke FM Limited, YRM Jacobson & Widmark Limited, YRM Jacobson Widmark Limited, Credit Interface Systems Limited
Nature of business: Dormant
Trade classification: 7484
Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 9 April 1997
Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s) Midland Bank Plc
Names of administrative receivers & Office Holder Nos: Michael David Gercke 2360, Kevin James David Ellis 8722.
Addresses: No.1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF HONG KONG
HIGH COURT
MISCELLANEOUS PROCEEDINGS
No. M.P. 1042 of 1995
To: Chan Kam Man, 302 Carshalton Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 3QB United Kingdom
TAKE NOTICE that an action has been commenced against you in the above Court by Chan Kam Yee (executor of the estate of Chan Kam deceased) to seek declaration from this Honourable Court for adverse possession of the subject premises by virtue of Section 7(2) and Section 17 of the Limitation Ordinance, Cap 347, Laws of Hong Kong which is particularized in the Concurrent Originating Summons.
And that it has been ordered that service of the Concurrent Originating Summons in the said action in you be effected, inter alia, by this advertisement.
And further take notice that you must within 28 days of the publication of this advertisement inclusive of the day of such publication, acknowledge service of the said Concurrent Originating Summons by completing a prescribed form of acknowledgement of service which may be obtained on request from the solicitors whose name and address appear below, otherwise judgement be entered against you.
Dated the 16th day of April 1997
Nabarro Nathanson
Ref: MBW/KHD/TA
Tele: 0171 493 9933
(Solicitors' firm in UK)

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
Kendell Plc
Registered number: 02064238
Former company name(s): YRM Plc, Stingnest Limited
Nature of business: Holding Company
Trade classification: 7420
Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 9 April 1997
Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s) Midland Bank Plc
Names of administrative receivers & Office Holder Nos. Michael David Gercke 2360, Kevin James David Ellis 8722.
Addresses: No.1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
YRM Ltd
Registered number: 02085499
Nature of business: Dormant
Trade classification: 7499
Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 9 April 1997
Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s) Midland Bank Plc
Names of administrative receivers & Office Holder Nos: Michael David Gercke 2360, Kevin James David Ellis 8722
Addresses: No.1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL

DENTOV LIMITED
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, J J Schapira, ACA, of Leonard Curtis & Co, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company by the Members and Creditors on 11th April 1997.
Dated 11th April 1997
J J Schapira, Liquidator

NOTICE OF S98 MEETING OF CREDITORS
BREAKMOVE LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
Principal Trading Address: Oliver Grove, 1 High Street, South Norwood, London, SE25 6EP
Company Number: 1926370
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at The George Hotel, High Street, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1BS on 18 April 1997 at 10.30 for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.
A list of names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at Deloitte & Touche of 63 High Street, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1BQ during the two business days preceding the above meeting.
Dated: 3 April 1997
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
G Benson, Director

Hospitals revenue gives Bupa a lift

By Marianne Curphey

EXTRA income from nursing homes and hospitals helped to push up operating profits 7 per cent to £52.2 million at Bupa, the UK's biggest healthcare company, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

However, Bupa's profits before tax fell from £99.2 million to £88.9 million in the year to December 1996, which Bupa blamed on a poorer performance by its investment portfolio. Edward Lea, finance director, said 1995 had been "a particularly good year for equities". He added: "Investment gains, both realised and unrealised, were lower in 1996 than 1995, and all insurance companies will have experienced this."

Reserves increased to £638.8 million from £565.3 million, an increase of 13 per cent, while the UK solvency ratio was up to 70 per cent from 65 per cent.

Bupa acquired 30 nursing homes from Greenalls in May last year for £68 million. These helped to increase assets from £361.7 million in 1995 to £451.6 million last year.

Mr Lea said Bupa is looking for more nursing homes and hospitals, of which it has 30 each. Bupa controls 42 per cent of the UK healthcare market, with 40 per cent of its business coming from private clients and the rest from corporations.

RJB Mining directors paid more than £2m

RJB MINING paid its six executive directors more than £2 million last year in salary, bonus and pension contributions (Christine Buckley writes).

Richard Budge, chief executive, earned £656,912 in a year in which he netted £2.19 million from the sale of nearly 400,000 shares in a buyback last July. He was awarded a performance-related bonus of £269,352, 90 per cent of his salary. Three other directors received bonus awards of 90 per cent of salary.

Gains of £535,000 were made by four of the directors when they exercised options and immediately sold them into the market when the share price was 555p. Six weeks later the shares crashed to 372½p after the company's broker downgraded its profits forecast.

Pay for all directors and staff earning more than £28,000 has been frozen this year as part of a cost-cutting programme.

Shoe group's £80m deal comes after restructuring loss

MEPC buys Clark factory outlets

By Sarah Cunningham

MEPC, the property company, is to pay £80 million for the factory outlets business built up by C & J Clark, the privately owned shoe group. Clarks revealed that it incurred a loss last year after spending £30 million on restructuring.

Roger Pedder, chairman of Clarks, said the sale of the factory outlets did not necessarily take the group any closer to a long-awaited flotation. "It is a much bigger issue outside the business than within," he said. A flotation might take place if, for example, Clarks wanted to make a large overseas acquisition.

The deal covers the factory outlets at Street in Somerset, Kendal in Cumbria and the Yorkshire Outlet centre at Doncaster, which is jointly owned by Clarks and RAM Euro Centers. The centres sell surplus stocks of clothing and goods. MEPC will pay £55 million in cash and £25 million in loan notes for the centres. Clarks plans to distribute the £53.25 million it will net from the deal directly to its 6,500 shareholders. Around 70 per cent of the company is owned by some 400 members of the family.

In the year to January 31, Clarks incurred a pre-tax loss of £400,000 after exceptional charges, compared to a profit of £24.8 million a year earlier. Operating profit fell from £35.8 million to £33.6 million. Sales crept up from £721 million to £727 million. Shareholders will receive a 7p per share dividend, as last year.

MEPC, which hopes to complete the deal in early June, bought its first outlet centre, Royal Quays in North Shields, a year ago. James Tuckey, chief executive, said MEPC would be interested in acquiring other centres. It is planning to add more leisure and catering facilities to the Clarks centres.

Clarks' £30 million restructuring charge last year covered the closure of five factories and around 1,400 job cuts.

☐ European fears for the Old Lady ☐ Spending building society windfalls ☐ Elephant-hunting at House of Fraser

Referendum Party Eddie

☐ AS BEFITS an organisation whose main proponents include Geoffrey Boycott and Frederick Forsyth, the level of debate put forward by the Referendum Party has rarely risen much above the waterline. After all this droning on about the influence of Brussels, Sir James and his crew should sing a different tune. How about domination by Frankfurt?

If ammunition is needed it was provided yesterday by the annual report of the European Monetary Institute. In Referendum terms, this could be categorised as a German-based body barking instructions about how everyone should run their economies so they can fit in with some Euro masterplan to let our soverign currencies be subsumed by the almighty mark. In reality, the EMI is telling off Germany as much as any other country. But even vociferous Europhiles can see a worrying issue arising about the role of the Bank of England after monetary union.

As the EMI made quite clear yesterday, it will be the body in charge of monetary policy across Europe. It will have a relatively small staff, so it will devolve responsibility for operating monetary policy within the individual European states to the central banks. But doesn't that mean that the grand old Bank of England will be turned into little more than the banking equivalent of a McDonald's franchise? It will hire the staff, cook the burgers and serve them, but the recipe will be written by Frankfurt. Is this a dignified role for our central bank?

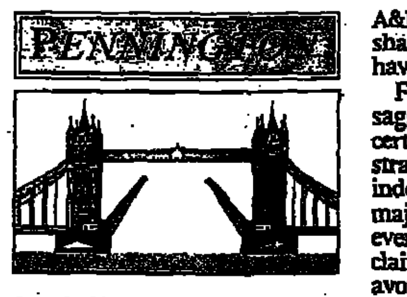
And just when the mandarins at Threadneedle Street thought prospects could not get any bleaker, along comes Alastair Darling, Labour's man in the City. Brandishing the Treasury Select Committee report into the Barings scandal — which accused the Bank of being too close to the financial institutions it regulates — Mr Darling appears to want to shake up financial regulation in a way that does not favour the Bank. Mr Darling is in favour of the twin peaks approach that does away with the old fashioned division of financial institutions into banks and securities firms and instead frames regulation by reference to the intended customer. Selling to the general public will be heavily regulated, but selling to professional investors will have a lighter touch. Mr Darling is also in favour of getting rid of the self-regulatory organisations and giving more power to the Securities and Investments Board. In his vision there will be only one regulator in town and that looks like being the SIB not the Bank.

The Bank has been a key influence on British finance for 303 years. In the next five, it could lose most of its power. It's enough to make Eddie George vote for the Referendum Party.

Pinning hopes on a nation of parasites

☐ HAS that longed-for feeling of financial wellbeing at last bathed Middle England in a golden sweat? Or have we just become a nation of serial parasites?

Up to 16 million people, subject to some extravagant double-counting, will soon be able to make their choice as recipients of the windfalls of demutualisation. Judging by the latest returns from Alliance & Leicester Building Society, first of the current batch, a quarter of them might take the cash straight away.



When Abbey National pioneered conversion, amid much scepticism, only a quarter had sold after 12 months. Surveys suggested only 10-15 per cent of the customers of Halifax *et al* would have nothing to do with the stock market.

Faster sales make wonderful news for financial institutions, many of which feel obliged to stock up on the shares as soon as possible. If they can buy lots of A&L via auctions of unwanted shares, they will not after all have to pay through the nose.

Forecasts of early prices are sagging, making it less than certain that A&L will leap straight into the FT-SE 100 share index. That is bad news for the majority who want to stay on even if, as one broker tastefully claimed, the chance of A&L avoiding takeover is "as likely as a 2nd lieutenant surviving the First World War".

The more pressing issue is what pocketers do with their cash. When the economy seemed to sag last year, some economists hoped windfalls would boost consumer spending, perhaps by paying down credit card debt to replenish spending power. Buoyant consumer spending is now a bit of a worry, so other economists predict that windfalls will not be spent. Even shares cashed immediately, they argue, will be deposited in other building societies to earn new windfalls.

Such mercenary behaviour may well prevail over the desire to buy goods now. Unless Gordon Brown courts loathing by taxing this other windfall, as he probably should, the economy will have to wait for the shock.

How quaint to choose Quant

☐ DEBENHAMS has Jasper Conran and Philip Treacy, Dorothy Perkins is in partnership with Clements Ribeiro and even dear old Marks & Spencer is linked with Ghost and Betty Jackson. So who is House of Fraser inviting on to its board in the hope of attracting the fashionable younger audience it needs to revitalise its flagging stores? Mary Quant.

The cloud that engulfed House of Fraser last year is not lifting, despite a management shake-out instituted by John "Texas" Coleman. You could go elephant hunting in many of the stores without hitting a customer and tomorrow's results are not likely to inspire. If sales for the year have risen in money terms, then it will be little more than a miracle and they are sure to have shrunk when inflation is subtracted. Massive provisions may have removed the stock problem — but only in accounting terms.

So what is to be done? Fraser is not winning the customers it needs and Sixties star Ms Quant cannot be relied on to attract them. The store portfolio is being pruned but if the product mix is not right, does it matter? Hopes of a bid have faded, along with the fortunes of the City's favourite bidder, Sears. The market should have spotted it was being sold a pup when Fraser was floated. As they say in Tatton, never accept a present from Mohamed Al Fayed.

Danish best

☐ STANDARD & POOR'S, the US credit analyst, has assigned an unbeatable AAA rating to loans raised to finance the Baltic's Oresund link between Sweden and Denmark. How different from our own dear Eurotunnel link between Britain and France. But the Oresundskonsortiet loan is guaranteed by governments at each end, an arrangement banned from the Channel lest it led to cost overruns. How wise.

LucasVarity policy change rattles market

By Paul Durman

ALMOST ten million shares in LucasVarity changed hands yesterday as the brakes and car electrics group confirmed that it is cutting its annual dividend.

The company, formed from a £3.2 billion merger in September, intends to supplement its dividend by regularly buying back shares in the market. This year it plans to buy in 3 per cent, or about 44 million, of its shares.

LucasVarity said it has no plans to change its cumbersome name because completion of the integration of the two businesses is of greater priority.

Neil Arnold, finance director, said LucasVarity expects to make a total distribution to shareholders, including dividends, of about £150 million. This is 50 per cent more than the £100 million it would have paid out if it had maintained the 7p-a-share dividend paid last year by Lucas Industries, the British half of the combine.

The dividend will fall to 4.5p a share for the year to January 1998. For the period just ended, LucasVarity will pay a dividend of 2.25p on July 1.

Investment funds that seek income are expected to sell their holdings in LucasVarity, or risk falling short of their income target. The company's shares closed 2½p lower at 198p yesterday, having initially run as high as 206p.

The change in dividend policy is driven by tax considerations. LucasVarity does not make enough money in the UK to make full use of the relief for advance corporation tax.

LucasVarity's first results since its merger showed an operating profit of £336 million on sales of £4.6 billion — a 5 per cent rise on the pro forma total from Lucas and Varity separately in the previous year. Pretax profits for the year to January 31, before restructuring costs, were £282 million.

The group has set aside £250 million for restructuring that has cost 3,000 jobs at a cost of £105 million. It is seeking buyers for 13 businesses. The changes will save £120 million a year, although the full benefit will not be felt for two years.

N Brown abandons the hunt

By Sarah Cunningham

N BROWN, the home shopping company that last month broke off talks with Sears about buying its Freemans mail order arm, has abandoned its quest for a large acquisition.

The company made a pretax profit of £37.1 million in the year to March 1, compared to £31.2 million a year earlier. Sales grew 21.5 per cent to £280.5 million, helped by a large increase in first-time customers. In the first six weeks of this year, sales grew a further 15 per cent.

Sir David Alliance, chairman, said he is not interested in making acquisitions for their own sake. "We could have bought Freemans," he said, "but we would only do it if it were to improve shareholder value." However, he added that smaller bolt-on acqusitions are still likely.

Earnings per share rose from 14.42p to 17.03p. A final dividend of 4.8p (4.6p) will be paid on July 25, giving a full-year 6.8p (5.7p).

Tempus, page 32

Reckitt puts the record straight

By Graham Searjeant

RECKITT & COLMAN, the household products multinational, has been forced to amend its 1995 accounts after objections were raised by the Financial Reporting Review Panel.

Reckitt initially overvalued its £1 billion acquisition of America's L&F Products at the end of 1994 and then subsequently cut the fair value in its accounts by £81 million to £726 million. But it failed to explain this to shareholders.

The review panel ruled that Reckitt had failed to comply with FRS6, the accounting standard covering acquisitions and mergers. In doing so, it had also failed to comply fully with requirements of the Companies Act 1985.

The panel has powers to take companies to court and oblige them to issue new accounts, but agreed that Reckitt could issue a a note making good the omission in its 1995 accounts with its 1996 accounts. These were sent to shareholders yesterday.

McCann departs in Servisair shake-up

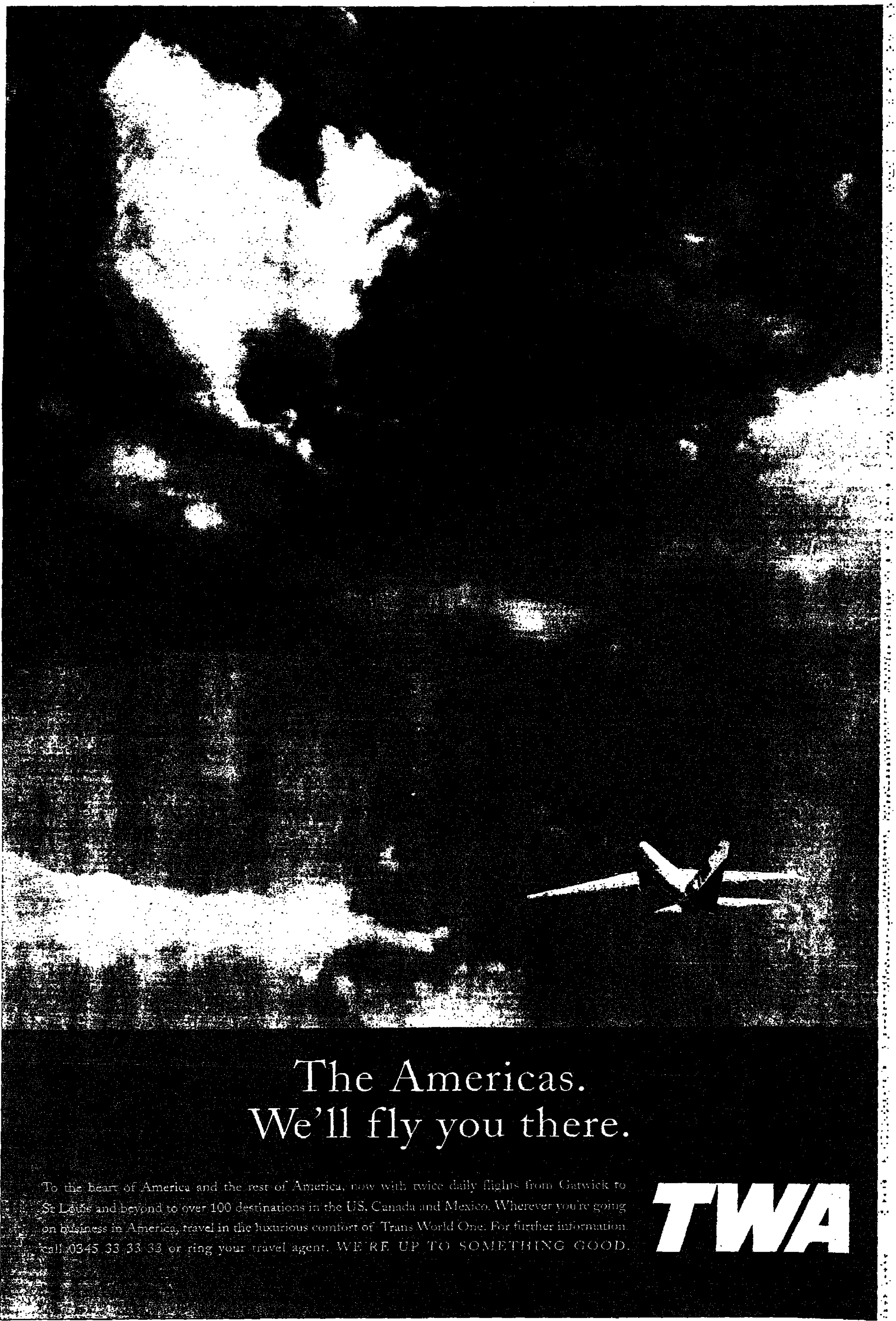
By Fraser Nelson

SERVISAIR, the aircraft maintenance company that joined the stock market two years ago, has announced a boardroom shake-up and the departure of Tony McCann as executive chairman.

Mr McCann, who was paid £133,000 for a three-day week, was said to have left to pursue his other business interests. He leaves with share options currently worth £570,000.

The move comes just two weeks after the company parted company with David Collier, who only 18 months previously had been appointed development manager — an appointment which, according to Mr McCann, "just didn't work out".

Mr McCann, 56, will now be replaced by John Willis, currently chief executive. A replacement for Mr Willis is expected to be named by the summer. The company's shares gained 9p yesterday to close at 453p.



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TWA

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

American inflation figures cheer UK and US markets

EVIDENCE that inflationary pressures are easing cheered investors on both sides of the Atlantic. In London, prices wiped out Monday's losses to close just below their best levels of the day.

The FT-SE 100 index finished up 35.1 at 4,286.8, encouraged by a near 100-point rally by the Dow Jones industrial average at the start of trading in New York following a smaller than expected rise in US inflation.

Trading in London, however, remained thin with just 787.9 million shares changing hands. Early attention focused on **BT**, 2½p firmer at 440½p, as shareholders gave their approval for the proposed £13 billion merger with MCI to form Concert. It will be the biggest deal in British corporate history.

ScottishPower, ½p firmer at 381½p, came out with top marks in NatWest Securities' latest *Utility Watch*. Despite the prospect of windfall levies and other tax charges being imposed at some stage, dividend growth should comfortably exceed the rest of the market. Others to go better included **Northern Ireland Electricity**, 12½p to 380p, **National Power**, 5½p to 540½p, **Scottish Hydro**, 5½p to 392½p, and **Southern Electric**, 6p to 434½p.

The banking sector received a welcome boost from Lehman Brothers yesterday with the publication of its *UK Clearing Banks 1997 Annual Review*. The 169-page tome predicts that the sector's re-rating will continue, with all the bull factors that have supported prices in the past five years still in place. Lehman said: "All that has changed is that the share prices are higher."

The Lehman banking team has given pride of place this year to **Lloyds TSB**, up 7p at 513½p, as the "prime domestic recommendation" and a tip that the shares could justify a £10 stock price in 1999. Others to find favour included **HSBC**, up 37p at £15.19, **Royal Bank of Scotland**, 11½p firmer at 533½p, **Standard Chartered**, 19½p higher at 847p, **Abbey National**, up 5p to 790p, and **Bank of Scotland**, 6½p better at 319½p.

Grand Metropolitan, the food and drinks giant, fell 2½p to 493½p after a mild profits downgrading by Goldman Sachs, the US securities house. It has cut its numbers by £8 million to £992 million, blaming currency factors.

Watermark, up 6p, has high hopes in the Miss World contest

Shield Diagnostics touched 635p before closing 12½p better at 620p as the company began a series of presentations for fund managers arranged by UBS, its new broker.

Growing optimism about the outlook for Dermagraft, its new skin treatment, put an early 3p on **Smith & Nephew** to 181½p. The latest trial report on the artificial skin product proved to be positive. The company is now applying for approval to market Dermagraft.

An update by **Chiroscience** on Phase 3 trials being conducted on Levobupivacaine, its new local anaesthetic, proved upbeat. It is reputed to require lower dosages and thereby reduces the risk of side effects. The shares responded with a rise of 14½p at 380½p.

Great Universal Stores continued to make headway, rising 19p to 652½p after this week's £180 million acquisition of Direct Marketing Technology in the US.

A positive trading statement lifted **Capita Group** 52½p to 687½p in a thin market. Rod Aldridge, chairman, told shareholders that trading in the first quarter was substantially ahead.

On AIM, shares in **Watermark**, the marketing services group headed by John Caulcutt, rose 6p to 34p after it saw profits more than double last year and having secured the rights to manage the Miss World competition later this year in the Seychelles. The group hopes it will be a lucrative affair, with profits accruing from the television rights and promotional activities. Watermark joined AIM in July last year at 13p and is paying its first dividend of 0.8p.

One of the best performances yesterday was in **Optometrics**, with the price more than doubling from 11p to 22½p. This follows an announcement late on Monday that certain directors had agreed to dispose of 5.4 million shares, or 53 per cent of the company, at 16½p to "certain places". One of them is reckoned to be Peter Levine, deputy chairman of Severfield Reeve, who is heading up a consortium of investors. On completion of the sale, Mr Levine is expected to be appointed chairman.

Eyecare Products dipped ¼p to 13p on learning that Andre Cohen had resigned after a boardroom dispute over the company's direction.

Alexon, the retailer, firmed ½p to 196½p, unperturbed by the decision of John Osborn, chief executive, to exercise an option on 200,000 shares at 65½p before selling them at 194p. Sir John Nott, the former Defence Minister, has sold more than half his stake in **Hillsdown Holdings**, where he is chairman. The 43,399 shares were sold at 194½p. Hillsdown closed 2½p dearer at 197½p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: Prices in London took their lead from positive performances by both US Treasury bonds and German bunds. Gains stretched to more than £1 at the longer end as investors anxiously awaited today's employment and earnings numbers.

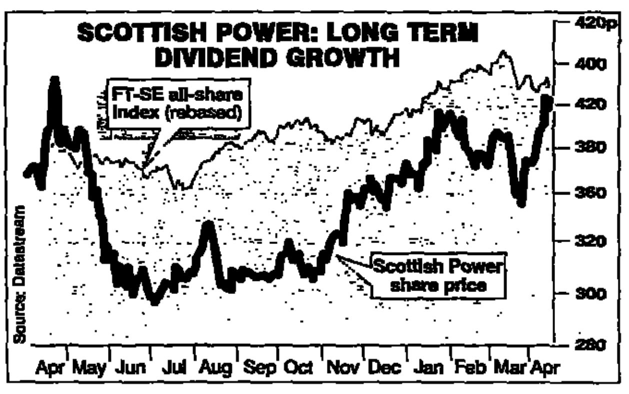
The Bank of England says it plans to issue £2 billion of existing tap Treasury 7 per cent 2002 in next week's auctions. Brokers had been expecting the bank to issue £2.5 billion of extra stock.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt closed £29/32 higher at £109¾ as the total number of contracts completed reached 67,000.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 soared £1 3/32 to £103 3/16, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £¼ better at £102 23/32.

☐ **NEW YORK**: Blue chips held on to most of the morning's gains, though technology shares slid after poor earning news from Intel Corp. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 88.70 points higher at 6,540.60.

CITY speculators have started calling time on Century Inns, the fast growing pubs operator, which last month splashed out almost £10 million on 65 tenanted houses. Word is Whitbread, which has expansion plans of its own, may have given the company a close look. At these levels, Century is valued at £72 million.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	Dow Jones	6540.60 (+88.70)
	S&P Composite	752.33 (+8.60)
Tokyo:	Nikkei Average	17933.59 (+241.12)
Hong Kong:	Hang Seng	12342.02 (+46.05)
Amsterdam:	EOE Index	736.37 (+20.16)
Sydney:	AO	2381.7 (+15.6)
Frankfurt:	DAX	3327.68 (+47.78)
Singapore:	Straits	2032.97 (-1.67)
Brussels:	General	11933.89 (+169.05)
Paris:	CAC-40	2630.63 (+54.50)
Zurich:	SKA Gen	976.70 (+14.40)
London:	FT 30	2833.1 (+19.8)
	FTSE 100	4286.8 (+35.1)
	FTSE 250	4521.7 (+15.9)
	FTSE 350	2112.6 (+15.2)
	FTSE Eurotrack 100	2172.03 (+26.80)
	FTSE All-Share	2084.16 (+14.16)
	FTSE Non Financials	2144.54 (+12.83)
	FTSE Fixed Interest	116.59 (+0.18)
	FTSE Govt Secs	94.01 (+0.37)
	Bargains	41903
	SEAQ Volume	787.9m
	US$	1.6252 (+0.0029)
	German Mark	2.8183 (+0.0123)
	Exchange Index	100.1 (+0.7)
	Bank of England official close (4pm)	
	£:ECU	1.4372
	£:SDR	1.1880
	RPI	155.0 Feb (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
	RPIX	154.5 Feb (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Aurora Inv Trust	100	...
Avalon Oil	86½	...
Avis Europe	139	+ 2
Bickerton	39½	- 2
Cambridge Antibdy	585	+ 15
Charlton Athletic	55	- 2
Close Bros Prot VCT	95	...
Diagonal	323	+ 10
Donatantonio	72	...
Harvey Nash	205	- ½
Heal's	212½	...
Helphire Group	114½	...
Methven's	48	...
Murray VCT 2 (100)	102½	...
Newcastle Utd	127	- 6½
Northstar Secs	28½	...
Oxford Tech Venture	95	...
Pathfinder Properties	22½	- 13
Prestbury Leisure	2½	...
Q Group	115½	...
Sibir Energy	15½	...
Torch Hldgs	107½	...
United Overseas Grp	60	...
Whitehead Mann	145½	...
Worldsec	177	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Biocure n/p (9)	22½	- 1
Edge Props n/p (135)	16½	+ 1
Luminar n/p (320)	50½	+ 1

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Somic	170p (+25p)
Scotia	430p (+32½p)
AIM	548p (+32p)
Chiroscience	380½p (+14½p)
J Leopold	490p (+15p)
Air London	244p (+14p)
Cortecs	237p (+13½p)
Innovative Tech	324p (+14p)
Blacks Leisure	437p (+18½p)

FALLS:

James Finlay	95p (-9½p)
DFS Furniture	503½p (-22p)
Photobition	502p (-10½p)
MEPC	465p (-8½p)
HP Bulmer	569p (-10p)
Bass	789p (-12p)

Closing Prices Page 34

TEMPUS

Short-circuited

FRANTIC share trading left LucasVarity, the car electricals and components group, looking weak. Doubtless some income funds were less keen to own shares in the car parts group after its US management decided to slash the dividend and replace part of the cash payout with a programme of share buybacks. On fiscal grounds, LucasVarity's plans have sense. The company's UK earnings are insufficient to generate a tax bill high enough to offset against the advance corporation tax (ACT) on its dividend. American shareholders prefer share buybacks and such a policy does not aggravate the £90 million ACT problem.

The worry is that a commitment to buybacks will be less exact (and less exacting) than dividend payments. LucasVarity, of course, sees only a future of rising profits and strengthening cash flow. But such a sanguine view of future trading hardly bears consideration given the recent problems of US motor manufacturers. A profits slump accompanied by a hike in interest rates would consign buybacks to the bin.

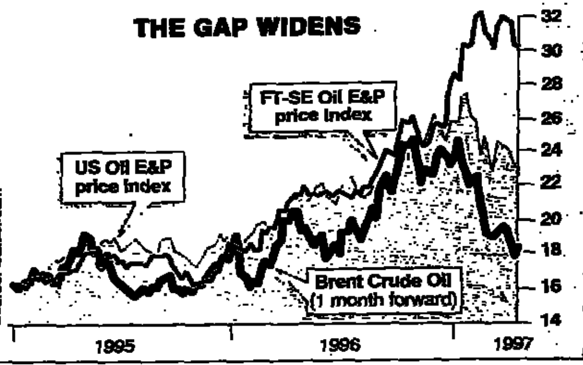
Big fans of the fashionable concept of economic value added, the LucasVarity bosses are therefore likely to be big borrowers. However, for UK institutions dividend payments have become a key measure of company value and for mature funds, a means of matching their pension liabilities. They are unlikely to abandon dividends for the sake of business school theory. Moreover, a change in corporate taxation by a new government could remove some of the advantages to heavily indebted balance sheets. American investors will need big pockets to absorb further selling from UK institutions.

Oil exploration

INVESTORS in UK oil exploration stocks are beginning to look like passengers on the Titanic. Since January, the price of a barrel of Brent Crude has fallen from $25 per barrel to below $18 but over the same period the shares of oil exploration companies have gone from strength to strength. More worrying still is a comparison with the the American oil sector, where share prices have suffered a healthy setback after a 28 per cent fall in the price of crude oil.

Why have their British cousins escaped punishment? The battle between Gulf Canada and Clyde Petroleum early in the year added some froth to valuations but no further bids emerged. Indeed, the high ratings have probably deterred predators. In the UK, the sector is valued at a 25 per cent premium to its net asset value with the more racy stocks, such as British Borneo, priced by the market at almost three times their net worth.

There lies the problem: investors in companies like Cairn Energy and British Borneo are speculating on the success of the next well, or in the case of British Borneo, probably the next deal. While oil price expectations will affect the value of additions to Cairn's reserves, it is not material when gambling on an extra 2 trillion cubic feet of gas. But the earnings and cash flow of core exploration stocks such as Enterprise Oil will be hurt by lower oil prices and investors should take note.



N Brown

N BROWN'S grander ambitions have been curbed by circumstances beyond its control, but it would be a mistake to dismiss the company as a frustrated might-have-been.

Attempts to enter the big time through a takeover of the Littlewoods home shopping business and, more recently, a bid for Freemans, led N Brown nowhere. Littlewoods spurned the overtures and Sears wanted too much money for Freemans.

N Brown is left pointing its gun at an empty horizon and it said yesterday that it will concentrate on organic growth. Fortunately, this is one of the company's strengths. Few companies have such a consistent record of growing sales and profits.

The only caveat is that N Brown's market is set for considerable upheaval. Marks & Spencer is planning, for next year, its first foray into catalogue sales of its adult clothing ranges, Burton also plans to launch catalogues and GUS could make a serious move to tackle the direct market. These threats cannot be ignored, but growth of the home shopping market as a whole should provide enough room for expansion, and N Brown has the advantages of being established and well-liked by its customers. As yet, there is no reason for it to look to its laurels.

MEPC

IN SPITE OF all the mud flung at MEPC after the disclosure of bid talks with Hammerson, the company has not lost its ability to do interesting deals. Last April, MEPC bought a factory outlet shopping centre in Newcastle and yesterday it acquired the Clarks portfolio for £80 million. Together, the assets are worth about £100 million, and MEPC is keen to lift its share, currently 30 per cent, of this thriving sub-sector of the retail property market.

From a property perspective, factory outlets may look like boring retail sheds, but with one important distinction — the retailers have every incentive to restrict their supply. Typically, they sell marked-down designer clothes, occasionally seconds but more often slow-moving stock or last year's fashions. Lowish rents in out-of-town locations mean that retailers can slash their gross margin and still make a decent return. However, the notion of a bargain is crucial to the draw, and having too many factory outlets would not only erode high street full-price sales but diminish the value of the designer's brand.

For two industries (property and retailing) prone to boom-and-bust excess, this is an excellent discipline. MEPC has no intention of developing factory outlet sites but is keen to acquire more and could be a home for BAA's factory outlet investment if the latter chose to sell.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

May	1025-1023	Jul	1053-1052
Jul	1042-1041	Sep	1065-1062
Sep	1050-1049	Dec	1076-1074
Dec	1024-1023	106	0 BID
Mar	1033-1032		
May	1043-1042	Volume:	5942

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	1575-1575	Jan	1577-1570
Jul	1595-1593	Mar	1570-1540
Sep	1605-1601	May	unq
Nov	1604-1595	Volume:	5314

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	301.9-02.4
Spot: 307.5		Mar	300.9-00.1
May	307.3-08.2	May	300.5-00.1
Aug	308.3-08.0	Aug	unq
Oct	304.8-04.1	Volume:	2974

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 14

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	93.74	127.91	94.32
(+/-)	-1.33	-10.54	-5.05
Eng/Wales:	83.94	137.51	93.92
(+/-)	-1.30	-9.30	-5.15
(%)	-7.0	-20.0	+13.0
Scotland:	78.45	127.43	100.06
(+/-)	-1.99	-11.55	-2.57
(%)	-1.0	-52.0	-13.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.45	-0.20
Brent 15 day (May)	17.95	-0.25
Brent 15 day (Jun)	18.20	-0.20
W Texas Intermediate (May)	19.80	-0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	19.80	-0.10

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	197 (+1)	200 (+3)
Gasoil EEC	169 (+1)	170 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	79 (n/c)	81 (n/c)
Naphtha	154 (+3)	156 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

May	165.00-65.25	Aug	169.75-70.25
Jun	166.25-66.50	Sep	171.50-72.25
Jul	168.00-68.25		Vol: 10166

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	19.00-19.01	Aug	18.50-18.58
Jun	18.29-18.29	Sep	18.66 SLR
Jul	18.40 SLR		Vol: 32831

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	98.90	May	92.50
Jul	102.00	Sep	95.75
Sep	98.75	Nov	97.75
Nov	100.75	Jan	99.75
Jan	102.75	Mar	101.75
Volume: 651		Volume: 13	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
May	46.0	45.0
Jun	unq	65.0
Nov	75.0	75.0
		Volume: 113

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

May 75.00-75.50

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 97	1385	1355	1360
May 97	1410	1365	1365
Jun 97	1260	1260	1260
Jul 97	1210	1202	[illegible]
Vol: 257 lots		Open interest: [illegible]	

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LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2314.0-2315.0	2276.0-2277.0	[illegible]
Lead ($/tonne)	631.00-632.00	640.00-641.00	298275
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1222.0-1222.5	1248.0-1248.5	[illegible]
Tin ($/tonne)	5690.0-5695.0	5735.0-5740.0	34420
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1519.5-1520.5	1555.0-1555.5	[illegible]
Nickel ($/tonne)	7250.0-7255.0	7360.0-7365.0	154134

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Dom	430	17	28	37	0½	15	19½
(*436½)	460	0	10	19	23½	39	42½
ASDA	110	2½	8	9½	0½	4	7
(*112)	120	0	3½	5	8	9½	12½
Boots	650	35	49	56	0½	13	19
(*685)	700	1	19½	29½	15	37½	43½
Br Airways	650	15½	46	51	1	23½	29½
(*665)	700	0½	14½	29½	35	53	58
BP	650	45	59	72	0	10½	37½
(*695)	700	1½	30	43	7	30½	42
Br Steel	140	9½	12½	12½	0½	7	9½
(*147)	160	0½	3½	4½	13	21	22½
C & W	460	25	42	49½	0½	15½	21
(*485)	500	0½	22	30	15	36	41½
CU	600	49	74	95	0	18	32½
(*649)	650	4½	45	60½	5	36	56
ICI	700	8	37½	48½	1½	20	32
(*707)	750	0	15½	29½	43	49	61
Land Sec	750	32	45	53	0½	16½	22½
(*782)	800	0½	16½	27	18	44½	49½
M & S	460	34½	43	51½	0	8½	11½
(*494½)	500	1	17½	29	6½	26	29
Nat West	650	33½	58	67½	0½	15	27½
(*681½)	700	0½	28½	41½	16½	36	52
Safeway plc	330	16½	25	31	0½	11½	16
(*346)	360	0½	10	17½	15	29	32½
Sainsbury	300	26½	31½	36	0	6	9
(*326½)	330	1	12½	19½	4½	20	23
Shell	1000	31	65	85	0	19½	36
(*1030½)	1050	1	30½	57½	20	41	59
Smkl Bch	900	11½	51	73	2	34½	48
(*909)	950	0	29½	50	41	63	75
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	1700	99	149½	195	0	32	52
(*1799½)	1800	12½	91	133	13½	70½	93

Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
BAT Ind	500	14	42½	50½	1	21½	34½
(*513)	550	0	21	29	37	49	63
Vodafone	260	10½	23½	30½	0½	10½	15
(*270½)	280	0½	13½	20½	9½	21	25

Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met	460	37	47	55	4	9	13
(*492½)	500	10	22½	32	15	26½	31
Ladbroke	220	16½	23½	27½	2½	6	9
(*233½)	240	5	12	16½	10½	14½	18
Utd Bisc	220	14	22	25½	3½	7½	12
(*230)	240	3½	12	16	12½	17½	22½

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA	500	19	32½	40½	0½	14	18
(*519½)	550	0½	9½	17½	33½	43½	46
Thames W	650	30½	51½	58	0½	20	33
(*680)	700	1	26	34	20	57	60½

Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BTR	240	17	24½	26½	2½	7½	10
(*253½)	260	5½	13	18	11	15	19
Br Aero	1300	58½	97½	122½	19	38	52
(*1331½)	1350	30½	71	95½	41	61½	74½
Br Telcm	430	27½	38	41	3½	17	21
(*441½)	460	6½	17½	19½	21½	41	43
Cadbury	500	33	48	54½	4½	13½	16
(*526½)	550	6½	21½	30	28	37	39½
Guinness	460	40	52	59½	2	6½	10½
(*494)	500	13	26½	35½	14½	20½	25½
GEC	360	18	26½	31½	4½	15½	18½
(*371)	390	4	12	17½	21	33	35½
Hanson	280	19½	29	33½	4	10	14
(*290)	300	8	18	22½	12	19	23½
LASMO	220	14	21	26	7	11½	13½
(*225½)	240	7½	13	16½	18½	22	23½
LucasVarity	180	20½	24½	28½	1	4½	7
(*199)	200	7½	13	17½	7½	12½	15
Pilkingtn	120	5½	9	—	4½	9	—
(*120½)	130	2	5½	—	10½	15½	—
Prudential	550	31½	49½	59½	8	17	26
(*571½)	600	8½	26½	35	33½	42½	51
Redland	330	20½	26½	34½	9½	18	22½
(*345½)	360	5	12½	21½	29½	35½	40
R-Royce	240	10½	21	26½	7½	14½	17
(*246)	260	3	12½	18	20	26	28
Tesco	330	27½	37½	42½	2½	7	11
(*353½)	360	8½	19½	25	13	19	23½
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4287½)

	4150	4200	4250	4300	4350	4400
Calls						
Apr	149½	102	58	23	5½	1
May	184	146½	110	79½	53½	33
Jun	223	184	150	119½	93	70
Jul	254	217½	180½	149	121	94½
Dec	—	311½	—	248½	—	195
Puts						
Apr	1	2	7½	25	62½	112½
May	28	40	54	74½	100	131½
Jun	58	71	88	108	132½	161
Jul	72½	88½	103	124	146	171
Dec	—	147½	—	183½	—	231

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Abby Nat	750	40½	68½	83	0	17	29
(*790½)	800	1½	39	55½	11	38	51
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1000	29	70½	98	0	26	45
(*1029½)	1050	1	43½	61½	22	49	68½
Natl Pwr	500	40	54½	58	0	13½	22½
(*540½)	550	1	26	27½	10½	43½	48½

Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	1100	18	67	83½	1	42	53
(*1116½)	1150	0	41½	59	37½	57½	79
HSBC	1500	21½	94	124½	3½	55½	82½
(*1517½)	1600	0	49	79	82½	111½	137
Reuter	550	41½	61½	72	0	11½	16½
(*591½)	600	1½	31½	43½	9	30	37
Royal & Sun	431	6½	—	—	1	—	—
(*436)	460	0	14½	24	24	33	40½

Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Blue Circ	390	20	33	39½	6½	13	19½
(*402)	420	5½	18	25	22	28½	34½

Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Kingfishr	650	27	46½	58	10½	22	29½
(*664)	700	6	23	34	40	49	55½

Series		Jun			Jun		
Br Gas	240	12	—	—	12½	—	—
(*246)	260	4½	—	—	26	—	—

Series		Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Dixons	500	33	43½	54½	13½	26	37½
(*515½)	550	11½	21	32	40	53	57½
EMI Group	1150	73	99½	113½	24½	48½	60
(*1184½)	1200	45½	72	86	46	72	83½
Tarmac	110	8	11	13	4	7	10
(*113)	120	3½	6½	8½	9½	12½	15½
Hillsdwn	180	18	18	—	3	5	—
(*197)	200	4	6½	—	14	15½	—
Lonrho	130	9	12	15	3½	8	8½
(*133)	140	4½	7½	10½	9	13½	14
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	260	17½	23	25½	6	13½	15
(*268½)	280	7½	13	16	16	24	26½
Lloyds TSB	500	31½	43½	55½	12½	22½	28
(*514½)	550	10	21	32½	41	49½	55
Scot Pwr	360	29	37½	40½	7½	14½	17½
(*381)	390	11½	21	24½	19½	29	32½
Unilever	1500	90½	126½	148	13½	26½	36½
(*1565)	1600	31	67½	89½	55	68½	79

April 15, 1997 Tot: 44997 Calls: 23626 Puts: 21371 FTSE Calls: 5503 Puts: 4589

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt *Previous open interest: 174962*	Jun 97	109-03	109-28	108-29	109-24	69072
	Sep 97				109-19	0
German Govt Bond (Bund) *Previous open interest: 290456*	Jun 97	100.04	100.90	100.02	100.87	271113
	Sep 97	99.17	99.85	99.14	99.85	1728
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) *Previous open interest: 113366*	Jun 97	128.65	129.16	128.35	129.02	75092
	Sep 97	128.36	128.90	128.38	128.97	1167
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 97	126.55	126.67	126.50	126.64	1002
	Sep 97	125.28	125.28	125.28	125.30	20
Three Mth Sterling	Jun 97	93.42	93.45	93.40	93.43	13645
	Sep 97	93.17	93.18	93.14	93.17	[illegible]
Previous open interest: 461959	Dec 97	92.94	92.95	92.91	92.94	[illegible]
Three Mth Euromark *Previous open interest: 1300422*	Jun 97	96.75	96.76	96.74	96.75	23530
	Sep 97	96.67	96.70	96.67	96.70	26217
Three Mth Eurolira *Previous open interest: 272268*	Jun 97	93.24	93.29	93.21	93.28	24839
	Sep 97	93.51	93.61	93.53	93.60	15376
Three Mth Euroyen	Sep 97	99.26	99.28	99.26	99.27	801
	Dec 97	99.09	99.11	99.09	99.11	550
Three Mth Euroswiss *Previous open interest: 114918*	Jun 97	98.09	98.10	98.06	98.09	8587
	Sep 97	98.04	98.05	98.00	98.04	5575
Three Mth ECU *Previous open interest: 30047*	Jun 97	95.86	95.87	95.85	95.86	432
	Sep 97	95.79	95.83	95.79	95.82	314
FTSE 100 *Previous open interest: 63987*	Jun 97	4296.0	4319.0	4275.0	4314.0	13850
	Sep 97				4340.0	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6 Low 5[illegible] Week fixed: 5[illegible]

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible] Sell: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth: 6

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 5[illegible], close 6

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.57	n/a	5.73	5.95	6.30
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	3⅛-3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $345.50-345.80 Close: $341.50-342.00 High: $345.40-345.90 Low: $341.00-341.50 AM: $345.60 PM: $343.00

Krugerrand: $340.75-343.75 (£210.00-212.00)

Platinum: $364.50 (£223.85) Silver: $4.71 (£2.895) Palladium: $150.50 (£92.40)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 14	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.1567-3.1726	3.1606-3.1640	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Brussels	57.930-58.260	58.093-58.189	18-13pr	48-41pr
Copenhagen	10.689-10.750	10.729-10.738	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Dublin	1.0543-1.0577	1.0545-1.0564	7-2pr	22-16pr
Frankfurt	2.8081-2.8227	2.8171-2.8227	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Lisbon	280.55-282.35	281.70-282.01	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Madrid	236.51-237.61	237.25-237.44	14-4pr	54-36pr
Milan	2762.6-2774.4	2769.4-2772.8	15-31ds	31-53ds
Montreal	2.2664-2.2780	2.2666-2.2685	0.56-0.51pr	1.11-1.02pr
New York	1.6232-1.6278	1.6250-1.6258	0.07-0.05pr	0.225-0.195pr
Oslo	11.299-11.411	11.388-11.402	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	9.4430-9.4950	9.4741-9.4809	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Stockholm	12.543-12.545	12.521-12.536	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	204.58-205.64	205.25-205.43	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Vienna	19.754-19.868	19.826-19.845	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Zurich	2.3809-2.3971	2.3902-2.3927	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2884-1.2893
Austria	12.21-12.22
Belgium (Com)	35.80-35.85
Canada	1.3949-1.3954
Denmark	6.6100-6.6130
France	5.8351-5.8426
Germany	1.7360-1.7365
Hong Kong	7.7490-7.7500
Ireland	1.5380-1.5400
Italy	1704.90-1705.40
Japan	126.35-126.45
Malaysia	2.5135-2.5140
Netherlands	1.9505-1.9510
Norway	7.0067-7.0140
Portugal	173.44-173.51
Singapore	1.4430-1.4440
Spain	146.13-146.18
Sweden	7.7014-7.7080
Switzerland	1.4727-1.4737

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6247-1.6274
Australia dollar	2.0943-2.0969
Bahrain dinar	0.6055-0.6175
Brazil real*	1.7200-1.7244
China yuan	13.295-13.595
Cyprus pound	0.8305-0.8405
Finland markka	8.3350-8.4510
Greece drachma	437.75-444.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.5929-12.6023
India rupee	57.64-58.60
Indonesia rupiah	3871.0-3939.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4865-0.4965
Malaysia ringgit	4.0847-4.0880
New Zealand dollar	2.3633-2.3668
Pakistan rupee	64.55 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8450-5.9690
Singapore dollar	2.3453-2.3476
S Africa rand (com)	7.1950-7.2470
U A E dirham	5.8975-6.0215

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	664	Land Secs	666
ASDA Gp	5,900	Legal & Gn	3,500
Abbey Ntl	9,900	Lloyds TSB	6,800
Allied Dom	1,000	LucasVarity	9,900
AB Foods	368	Marks Spr	5,600
BAA	2,100	Mercury Asset	535
BAT Inds	3,200	NatWst Bk	4,900
BG	10,800	Nat Grid	9,000
BOC	1,900	Nat Power	3,500
BP	6,100	Next	1,200
BSkyB	1,500	Orange	2,700
BTR	4,500	P & O	1,800
BT	17,100	Pearson	583
Bk of Scot	3,800	PowerGen	1,000
Barclays	3,000	Prudential	1,900
Bass	2,400	RMC	177
Blue Circle	1,500	RTZ	17,300
Boots	1,500	Railtrack	5,300
BAe	881	Rank Group	505
BA	3,000	Reckitt Col	531
British Land	1,200	Reed Intl	447
Brit Steel	14,700	Rentokil Inl	955
Burmah Cstl	374	Reuters	3,300
Burton	2,700	Rolls Royce	3,400
Cable Wire	5,100	Royal & Sun	9,700
Cadbury	4,500	Royal Bk Sct	3,200
Carlton Cms	1,800	Safeway	4,300
Centrica	10,800	Sainsbury	1,400
Cm Union	2,300	Schroders	124
Dixons	643	Scot & New	1,500
EMI	571	Scot Power	2,800
Energy Gp	1,200	Svrn Trent	1,700
Enterpr Oil	1,300	Shell Trans	5,500
GKN	1,000	Siebe	2,100
GRE	1,400	SmKl Bch	2,300
GUS	2,300	Smith Nph	5,600
Gen Acc	1,200	Smiths Inds	699
Gen Elec	9,000	Std Chartd	3,200
Glaxo Well	4,000	TI Gp	1,000
Granada	1,700	Tate & Lyle	610
Grand Met	10,200	Tesco	3,100
Guinness	6,000	Thames W	605
HSBC	2,000	Tomkins	5,000
Hanson	849	Unilever	1,600
Hays	816	Utd Utilities	1,100
ICI	2,900	Utd News	1,900
Imp Tob	1,400	Vodafone	5,100
Kingfisher	1,300	Whitbread	406
LASMO	3,900	Wolseley	836
Ladbroke	1,400	Zeneca	2,000

WALL STREET

	Apr 15 midday	Apr 14 close
AMP Inc	34½	34½
AMR Corp	82½	81
ASA	n/a	33½
AT & T	33½	33½
Abbott Labs	55½	55½
Advanced Micro	38½	38
Aetna Life	86½	86½
Ahmanson (HF)	36	35½
Air Prod & Chem	68½	68
AirTouch Comm	23½	23
Alberto-Culver B	25½	25½
Albertson's	31½	31½
Alcan Aluminium	31½	31½
Allied Signal	69½	69½
Alum Co of Am	66	65½
Amerada Hess	49½	49½
Amer Brands	50	49½
Amer El Power	40½	39½
Amer Express	58½	58½
Amer Genl Corp	37½	36½
Amer Home Pr	58½	58½
Amer Intl	115½	114½
Amer Stores	44½	44½
Amer Standard	45½	44½
Ameritech	57½	57½
Amoco	81½	81½
Anheuser-Busch	42½	42½
Apple Computer	19	18½
Archer Daniels	17½	17½
Armco	4	4
Armstrng Wrld	62	61½
Asarco	27½	27½
Atl Richfield	129½	128½
Auto Data Pro	43½	41½
Avery Dennison	37½	37½
Avon Products	55½	54½
Baker Hughes	35½	35½
Baltim Gas & El	26½	26
Banc One	40½	39½
BankAmerica	106½	103½
Bank of NY	36	34½
Bankers Tr NY	76½	76½
Barnett Banks	46½	45½
Bausch & Lomb	37½	36½
Baxter Intl	43½	42½
Bectn Dicknsn	44½	44½
Bell Atlantic	58½	57½
Bell Industries	17½	17½
BellSouth	40½	40
Black & Decker	30½	30½
Block (H&R)	30½	30½
Boeing	101½	100½
Boise Cascade	29½	29
Bristol Myrs Sq	60½	58½
Browning Ferris	27½	27½
Brunswick	27	26½
Burlington Nthn	72½	71½
CMS Energy Corp	32	31½
CNA Financial	102	101½
CPC Intl	79½	79½
CSX	46½	45½
Campbell Soup	45½	47½
Can Pacific	23½	23
Carolina Pwr	35	34½
Case Corp	54½	53½
Caterpillar	80½	79½
Central & SW	19½	19½
Champion Intl	43	42½
Chase Manhat	92½	90½
Chevron Corp	64	63½
Chrysler	28½	28½
Chubb Corp	53½	52½
Cigna Corp	145½	144½
Citicorp	109½	106½
Clorox	112½	112½
Coastal Corp	45½	45
Coca Cola	56½	55½
Coca Cola Ent	57½	55½
Colgate-Palm	101	103½
Columbia Gas	57	56½
ColumbiaHCA	34	31½
Compaq Comp	74½	73½
Comp Ass Int	43½	43½
Comerca	53½	52½
Conrail	111½	113½
Cons Edison	28½	28½
Cons Nat Gas	48½	48½
Cooper Inds	42½	42½
Corestates	48½	47½
Corning Inc	47	45½
Crown Cork	53½	53½
Dana Corp	30½	30½
Dayton Hudson	41½	41
Deere	44½	44½
Delta Air Lines	89½	88
Deluxe Corp	31½	30½
Digital Equip	30½	30
Dillard Dept St	29½	29½
Disney (Walt)	71½	71½
Dominion Res	34½	34½
Donelley (RR)	33½	32½
Dover Corp	54½	53½
Dow Chemical	78½	78½
Dow Jones	39½	39
Dresser	28½	28½
Duke Power	42½	42½
Dun & Bradstreet	24½	24½
Du Pont	103½	100½
Eastman Chem	51½	51½

	Apr 15 midday	Apr 14 close
Eastman Kodak	74½	73½
Eaton Corp	69½	69½
Edison Intl	21½	21½
Elect Data Sys	39½	39½
Emerson Elec	46½	45½
Engelhard Corp	19½	19½
Enron Corp	37½	37½
Entergy	23	22½
Ethyl Corp	9	8½
Exxon	51½	51½
FMC Corp	60½	59½
FPL Group	43½	43
Federal Express	51½	50½
First Bk Sys	71½	70½
First Union Rlty	14½	14
Fleet Finl Grp	57½	56
Fluor Corp	52½	52
Ford Motor	33	32½
GTE Corp	43½	42½
Gannett	83½	83½
Gap Inc Del	32½	31½
Gencorp	18½	18½
Gen Dynamics	64½	64½
Gen Electric	101½	100
Gen Mills	59	59½
Gen Motors	54½	53½
Gen Reinsurance	159½	157½
Gen Signal	36½	36½
Genuine Parts	45	45½
Georgia Pac	73½	72½
Gillette	77½	77½
Glaxo Wellc ADR	36½	35½
Goodrich (BF)	36½	36½
Goodyear Tire	50½	50½
Gt Atl Pac Tea	23½	23½
Great Wstn Fin	40½	39½
Halliburton	66½	66½
Harcourt General	42½	42½
Heinz (HJ)	39½	39½
Hercules	39½	39
Hershey Foods	50½	50½
Hewlett Packard	49½	49½
Hilton Hotels	25½	25½
Home Depot	56½	56
Homestake Mng	13½	14
Honeywell	68½	68½
Household Intl	89½	89½
Houston Inds	20½	20
Humana	21½	21
ITT Corp	59½	59½
Ikon Office	29½	29½
Illinois Tool	83½	82½
Illinova	21½	21½
INCO	31	30½
Ingersoll Rand	43½	43½
Inland Steel	19½	19½
Intel Corp	131	133½
IBM	138	136½
Intl Flav & Fr	40½	41
Intl Paper	39½	39½
James River Va	27½	27½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	54	53
Kellogg	65	64½
Kerr-McGee	57½	57½
Kimberly-Clark	48½	47½
Kmart	12½	12½
Knight-Ridder	37½	36½
Lilly (Eli)	82½	81
Limited Inc	17½	17½
Lincoln Nat	51½	49½
Litton	39½	39½
Liz Claiborne	46	45½
Lockheed Martin	82½	82½
Louisiana Pac	17½	18½
MCI Comm	37½	36½
Manpower Inc	37½	37
Marriott Int	51½	51
Marsh & McLnn	116	115
Masco Corp	35½	35½
May Dept St	44½	44
Maytag Corp	22	21½
McDonalds	49½	48½
McDonnell D	61½	60½
McGraw Hill	50½	51
Mead Corp	51½	51½
Medtronic	61½	61½
Mellon Bk	74½	72½
Merck Inc	83½	82½
Merrill Lynch	87½	87½
Microsoft	97½	97½
Minnesota Mine	82	81½
Mobil Corp	122½	121½
Monsanto	38½	38½
Morgan (JP)	96½	94½
Motorola Inc	59½	58½
Natl Semi	25½	27½
Natl Service Ind	40½	39½
Navistar Int	9½	9½
NY Times A	41½	41½
Newmont Mng	38½	39½
Niag Mohawk	8½	8½
Nike B	57½	56½
NL Industries	9½	9½
Noram Energy	14½	14½
Nordstrom	37½	37
Norfolk Sthrn	87½	86½
Nthn State Pwr	46	45½
Norwest Corp	46½	45½
Nynex Corp	44½	43½
Occidental Pet	22½	22½

	Apr 15 midday	Apr 14 close
Ohio Edison	19½	19½
Oracle	39½	38½
Oryx Energy Co	18½	18
Owens Corning	38	38½
PHH Corp	45	44½
PPG Industries	49	49
PNC Bank	39½	38½
PP&L Res	19½	19½
Paccar Inc	73½	70½
Pacificorp	20½	20½
Pac Enterprises	30½	30½
Pall Corp	23	22½
Parker Hannifin	47½	46½
Peco Energy	19½	19½
Penney (JC)	46½	45½
Pennzoil	46	46½
Pepsico	32½	32½
Pfizer	87½	85½
Pharm & Upjhn	35½	35½
Phelps Dodge	73	72½
Philip Morris	38½	38½
Phillips Pet	37½	38
Pitney Bowes	57½	56½
Polaroid	37½	37½
Procter & Gmbl	119½	119½
Providian	54½	54½
Pub Serv E & G	24½	24½
Quaker Oats	38½	37½
Ralston Purina	77	76½
Raychem Corp	79½	78½
Raytheon	47½	47½
Reebok Intl	45½	45
Reynolds Metals	62½	61½
Rockwell Intl	61½	61½
Rohm & Haas	71½	71½
Royal Dutch	170½	170
Rubbermaid	24½	24½
SBC Comms	50½	50
Safeco Corp	39½	38½
St Paul's Cos	65½	65½
Salomon Inc	50½	51½
Sara Lee Corp	40½	39½
Schering Plough	71½	70½
Schlumberger	107½	108½
Seagram	38½	38½
Sears Roebuck	46½	45½
Shell Trans	103½	102½
Sherwin Wllms	25½	25½
Skyline Corp	21½	21½
Snap-On-Tools	36½	36½
Southern Co	21½	20½
Sprint Corp	44½	43½
Stanley Works	36½	36
Sun Company	24½	24½
Sun Microsys	30½	29½
Suntrust	46½	45½
Supervalu	28½	28½
Sysco Corp	34½	34½
TRW Inc	49½	49½
TCC Inds	2	2½
TIG Hldgs	31	30½
Tandem Comp	11½	11½
Tandy Corp	50½	50½
Temple Inland	50½	50
Tenneco	39	38½
Texaco	103½	103
Texas Inst	86	82½
Texas Utilities	33½	33½
Textron	102	101½
Time Warner	40½	40
Times Mirror A	54	53½
Timken	53½	52½
Torchmark	54½	53½
Toys R Us	27½	26½
Transamerica	84½	84
Travelers	50	48½
Tribune	40½	40½
Tyco Int	57½	57½
UST Inc	26½	26
UAL	70	68½
US Inds	34½	34½
US West Comm	31½	31½
US West Media	18½	18½
USAirways Group	26½	25½
USX Marathon	26½	26½
Unicom	18½	19
Unilever NV	182½	179½
Union Camp	45½	45½
Union Carbide	47	45½
Union Pacific	58½	57½
Unisys Corp	5½	5½
USF&G Corp	20	19½
US Life	45½	44½
United Tech	77½	77½
Unocal Corp	38½	38½
VF Corp	65½	65½
WMX Tech	30½	30½
Wal-Mart Stores	28	27½
Warner-Lambert	93½	93½
Wells Fargo	280	280½
Westinghouse El	18	18
Weyerhaeuser	47½	47½
Whirlpool	45½	45½
Whitman	23	23
Winn Dixie	32½	32½
Woolworth	20½	20½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	54½	55½
Xerox	56½	55½
Yellow Corp	19½	19½
Zenith Elec	12	11½

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Challenge to NatWest board

RORY MURPHY, general secretary of the NatWest Staff Association, is trying to unseat one of his bosses from the bank's board. He is standing for election to the board of directors, in an effort to gain more influence for workers.

Murphy, who pledged to redirect any remuneration earned, if elected, to the staff association, wants to ensure that workers are not affected by the recent £90 million black hole that was discovered in the bank's books. The current directors standing for reelection, who have the full backing of the board, include Lord Alexander of Weedon, the chairman, and Martin Owen, the chief executive of NatWest Markets, who took a £200.000 cut in his bonus in the wake of the mispricing affair. Murphy will put the issue to the vote at the group's annual meeting next Tuesday.

COMMISERATIONS to John Carter, chief executive of Commercial Union, who kept himself upright at yesterday's annual meeting by balancing on crutches. Resplendent in a smart grey suit, with a plaster cast up to one knee, Carter's injury is the result of a "sports accident".

Tony Hales can expect £10,000 a year at Villa

Hales for Villa

TONY HALES, the soccer crazy chief executive of Allied Domecq, is joining the board at Aston Villa Football Club. To make time for his new appointment, Hales stood down yesterday as a non-executive director of Hyder, after four years at the water company, where he picked up £25,000 per annum. A lifelong supporter of the premiership club, currently preparing for a stock market flotation, he can expect to earn £10.000 a year in his new role. Until he takes up the position at the end of this year, his fee will be redirected to Allied Domecq. In reference to my earlier story about Hales's football tour in Spain with 16 youngsters in tow, I am told that the opposing teams had clearly spent more time in training.

Fish rent

THE Lord Mayor swapped his customary breakfast fry-up for Dover sole yesterday. At the crack of dawn, accompanied by six members of the ancient Company of Watermen and Lightermen, Alderman Roger Cork sailed from Mansion House to Billingsgate Market, to hand over the annual rent for the fish market, which is set at "one fish per annum" to the Corporation of London. The Lord Mayor, however, stopped short of touching the fish. A Corporation of London spokeswoman said: "He was shaking a lot of hands, and it wouldn't have been terribly nice."

Lamb turns horse

A BLACK horse attended yesterday's Lloyds TSB annual meeting in Edinburgh. Two members of the quaintly named Lamb, Lloyds and Midland Bank Boycott, gained admittance to the meeting as a pantomime horse, on the ground that they were shareholders.

MORAG PRESTON

Eric Reguly on the Americanisation of business

After overpaid and over here ... it's over us

Mixing British and foreign companies can be dangerous — for the Brits that is. The "marriage of equals" rarely is that; even when a British company buys a foreign company of a similar size it seems to lose its Britishness with astounding regularity.

Shareholders of British Telecom yesterday overwhelmingly approved BT's £13 billion takeover of MCI, America's second largest long-distance carrier. They probably did not notice that the upper echelons of Concert, the merged entity, will be loaded with American names.

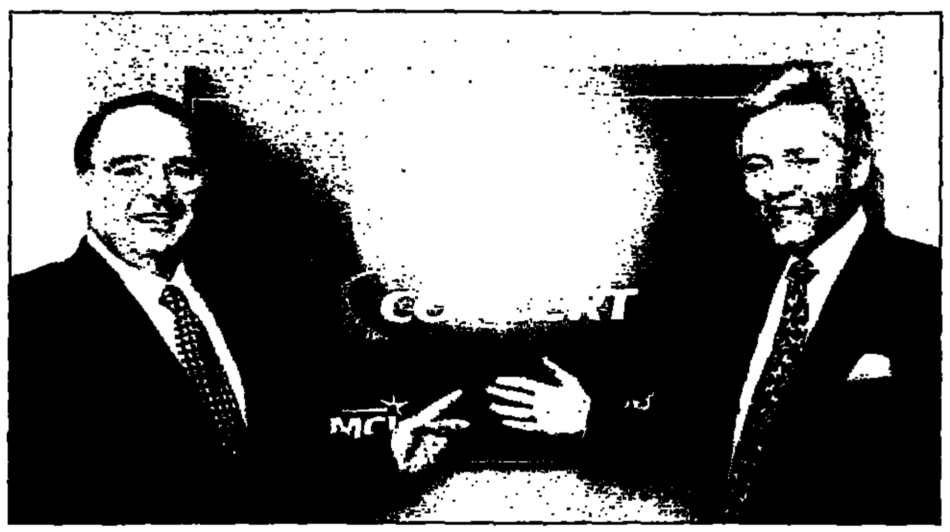
Jerry Taylor, chief executive of MCI, has emerged as president and chief operating officer of Concert, although he reports to Sir Peter Bonfield, the chief executive. Bert Roberts, MCI's chairman, is to share the chairman's office with Sir Iain Vallance and half the management positions immediately below them are filled with MCI brass. Concert will have headquarters in Washington and London and its shares are to be listed in New York and London.

Although Mr Taylor is always quick to say that "Peter is the boss", one wonders how many years will pass before Concert effectively becomes an American operation. Mr Taylor does not appear anxious to call it a day and embark on a leisurely spending spree with the $44 million he is to receive for his MCI shares and options. He has signed a three-year contract at Concert at $700,000 a year and gives every indication that he is gearing up for the long haul. "I don't see this as the end of my career," he told *The Times* recently. "I see it as a huge opportunity to carry on."

The reality is that BT would be in trouble if MCI's management did a runner. BT, in spite of its size, is a remarkably parochial company. The vast majority of its operations are in the United Kingdom and it knows little about the American telecoms market, the world's largest. Shuffling Taylor, Roberts & Co aside would imperil the largest transatlantic takeover in history and alienate every institutional investor in the land. Somewhat ominously, Sir Iain called MCI "the world's best market attacker" at yesterday's shareholders' meeting.

The "Americanisation" of British companies is nothing new. SmithKline Beecham, one of the world's largest pharmaceuticals groups, is a classic case of the tail wagging the dog.

SmithKline started life as a Philadelphia apothecary and ran into trouble in the 1980s when its drugs pipeline took on the characteristics of an echo chamber. Beecham, founded in the last century by Thomas Beecham, an English laxative salesman, had troubles of its own. Their British brands, including Brylcreem and Macleans toothpaste, were a flop in the US market and by the 1980s it was drifting. Sir Ronald Halsted was fired as chief executive and no suitable Briton could be found to replace him. In the end, Beecham recruited Robert Bauman, an American, to run the show.


Concert party: Jerry Taylor, left, and Sir Peter Bonfield announce the BT-MCI deal

Robert Bauman, an American, engineered the merger of SmithKline and Beecham

Mr Bauman was quick to introduce American-style management techniques to Beecham. He reportedly asked Lord Keith, the chairman, to produce the corporate plan, to which Lord Keith replied: "That's part of the problem. We don't have one."

In 1989, Mr Bauman engineered Beecham's merger with SmithKline. Overnight, Beecham became one of the largest players in the American pharmaceuticals market and, since then, the group has become less and less British. Mr Bauman was replaced by Jan Leschly, a hard-driving Dane who spends less than a third of his time in Britain. Half of the company's £7.9 billion in sales are in the US, against some 7 per cent in the United Kingdom, and 38 per cent of shareholders are American, up from 23 per cent in 1995. SmithKline Beecham is considered a multinational company if you live in Britain and an American company if you live in the US. Six of its 12 management team members are American.

There are less glorious examples of British companies losing their identity. One of the daftest instances of dynamic corporate finance activity surely is to pay a premium to lose control of your business to another company. Yet this happened in full daylight to Wiggins Teape Appleton. The coup, made by France's Worms/Saint-Louis alliance, came barely six months after the naive group's flotation.

WTA brought together paper companies owned by BAT Industries in Britain and the US in preparation for a demerger in June 1990. BAT brought in Stephen Walls, youthful but recently vanquished champion of the Clark family's Plessey group, to head the combined company. Mr Walls thought expansion by acquisition was the strategy for WTA, so he was delighted in December 1990 to secure a merger with Arjomari, a smaller but important French paper group.

Arjomari was not independent, however. It was controlled by the Saint-Louis group, which was heavily influenced by the Worms financial group. As a result of the takeover, these French interests gained a controlling 40 per cent of the combined Arjo Wiggins Appleton.

Mr Walls was assured of management independence. But the new controllers understandably soon started taking strategic financial decisions, insisting on big cuts in the 1992 dividend. Mr Walls moved on with £700,000 in his pocket. AWA shares remain quoted in London and the Franco-British board is carefully balanced. But it is now regarded as a French company.

Metal Box is another inglorious example. The stuggling packaging group turned itself around in the 1980s and merged with Carnaud of France. In this instance, however, the merger was specially structured to stop MB Group, parent of Metal Box, assuming control, as would normally have happened. Instead, Carnaud management quickly seized control.

At least one company has succeeded in Americanising two great corporate names on two continents. Varity, having Americanised Massey-Ferguson of Canada, is now doing the same with Lucas of Britain. The irony is that the excercise is being directed by a native Briton, Victor Rice.

By the 1980s, Massey-Ferguson was severing limbs in an effort to keep the body alive. Under Victor Rice, Massey-Ferguson found salvation by evolving into a car components company called Varity. In the early 1990s, Varity abandoned Toronto for Buffalo, New York, a move that enraged Canadian taxpayers who had helped to save Massey-Ferguson from oblivion.

Mr Rice surfaced in Britain last year when he engineered Varity's merger with Lucas. Varity went to great lengths to stess that the deal was a genuine merger of equals, with 60 per cent of Lucas-Varity's top 160 managers coming from Lucas and 40 per cent from Varity. Five of the group's seven divisions are headed by Lucas managers. In reality Varity seems very much in control. The chief operating officer and the finance director came from Varity and the creation of a single head office triggered the loss of more than 500 jobs, most of them from Lucas.

The company is importing Wall Street traditions, among them the effort to replace dividend payments with regular share buybacks. It seems to have backed away from plans to drop its "cumbersome" name, but cynics would not be surprised if "Varity" emerges triumphant. The first three letters, they note, form the initials of Victor A Rice.

Will the trend continue? Probably. One British management consultant who spends much of his career in the US said Britain produces fewer good managers than America. Britain's best and brightest, he notes, gravitate towards the legal and investment banking worlds. "Here, management, especially industrial management, is still considered grubby. In the US, the opposite is true. American managers are generally better at what they do."

The French, for their part, are simply better at corporate politics.

ANTHONY HARRIS

Sterling at 100: play it again, Tony

It is the oddest twist of fate that the exchange markets have ensured that, in one sense, John Major may leave office exactly where he came in. But if you think that sterling's reappearance within its old ERM bands suggests that the exchange-rate regime is a non-issue in the long run, think again.

Overvaluation still means less inflation and less growth, as it did in 1992; but there is all the difference in the world between an exchange rate chosen through political misjudgment and intended to stick, and a rate that results from a market swing that will certainly swing back in due course. It is the pros and cons of this change that Tony Blair and Gordon Brown will have to work out.

Exchange-rate volatility may offend the sense of order which is a management principle of Toyota; but, in the larger view, there is an important trade-off. Bigger financial swings mean smaller swings in the real economy. Within one country asset price increases which result from falling interest rates make capital cheap and so help to end the recession that made rates fall in the first place.

Exchange-rate swings have something of the same function internationally. Strong economies produce strong exchange rates; weak ones devalue. As a result, growth in one or two countries stimulated exports from the weaker economies. The more open the economy, the more powerful are these forces of international stabilisation.

This is already beginning to happen: there are signs of export-led growth in Japan and Germany, and of strong-currency deflation in the US and the UK. In due course, this will produce a profit squeeze in the current strong economies, with a new round of cost-cutting and labour shedding. Trade balances will also swing into the red, which will provoke, no doubt, the usual hand-wringing. But, in due course, the current strong currencies will follow their economies down, and the whole cycle will start again.

In other words, a world of floating exchange rates is one in which trade cycles are naturally out of step. In the days of the Bretton Woods regime this was regarded as a problem: even — since the IMF had the task of financing the trade imbalances that appear when cycles are out of step — as *the* problem of international economic management.

But experience showed that this was bureaucratic silliness. In the early 1970s the IMF managed to coordinate a world boom: the result was world-wide inflation. When that was addressed in the mid-1970s, we had what threatened to be a world slump. We can now see that, as when troops march over a bridge, breaking step may look ragged but is really much safer.

Could the same be true within Europe? That is the economic question at the heart of the EMU debate. A durable union would ensure, after a time, that the whole European economy would behave as one national economy, booming or slumping as a unit. This might be seen as helpful by corporate management, but would pose a series of headaches for the new central bank. Could cost pressures at the centre be countered without pushing the lagging regions into long-term decline? Is the whole Euro-economy open enough to enjoy much imported stability through the exchange markets? These are two of the difficult questions which disturb the sleep of thoughtful critics like Otmar Issing of the Bundesbank, and our own Eddie George.

And that is not the end of it. Suppose you conclude, as Issing does (and I agree), that EMU is a dangerously premature project, but it happens all the same (as the international bond markets seem to believe). What will then be right for Britain? Float independently on a choppy tide, as John Major believes? Or join what may be a doomed convoy, as he once thought? That is the question Tony Blair promises to resolve — a bold undertaking. But if he hopes for any help from a referendum it is too bold by half.

Testing time for those falls in unemployment figures

Data today offers a chance to check out the figures, says **Philip Bassett**

The Government will today unveil what ministers hope will be the decisive pre-polling day economic news of a further large-scale fall in unemployment, which the Conservatives will present as clear evidence of the success of their management of the economy.

Ministers, who were given the figures on Monday, believe the number of people out of work and claiming benefit is now falling at up to 30,000 a month, or even more. Labour, which is vociferously suspicious of the figures, will today set out details of its welfare-to-work strategy.

Accompanying today's unemployment figures for March will be other data, which, for the first time, will provide the opportunity of testing how far the mammoth falls in claimant unemployment of recent months have given an accurate picture of the job scene.

Critics claim that the figures have become less reliable since the Government's radical revision of the benefit system for the unemployed with the introduction of the Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA).

Unemployment in Britain is measured in two main ways. The first, the claimant count (CC), is the regular and familiar "unemployment" total issued each month, like today's main figure. This is a straight administrative count of the number of people on a particular day each month who are out of work and claiming state benefit as assistance. The measure changes as governments alter the benefit system and is the one that Labour regularly derides as "fiddled figures" following more than 30 changes to it since 1979.

The second, so-called ILO unemployment, is a measure of the number of people out of work drawn from the Government's Labour Force Survey (LFS). This survey is taken every three months among a statistically representative sample of 60,000 households across Britain, which registers people as unemployed according to an internationally accepted standard set by the International Labour Office. The two measures do not fully overlap because of the different definitions of being unemployed that each uses. In the way the ILO counts, some claimants are not unemployed, while some non-claimants are deemed as unemployed. In recent years, the gap between the two measures has varied. It was largest in spring 1990, at 422,000, when unemployment was close to bottoming out on both measures, and smallest in spring 1993, at 66,000, when on both counts unemployment was near its peak.

The figures are regarded with suspicion by Labour

Both measures have advantages — and drawbacks. On the ground of cost, Conservative ministers have refused to make the LFS a monthly survey as a check against CC unemployment. If Labour is elected, a move to a monthly LFS is likely.

Ministers insist that the two measures broadly follow the same trend. But the average quarterly difference between ILO unemployment and CC unemployment since the date of the last general election in spring 1992 is as high as 255,500. Unemployment as measured on the ILO definition is consistently higher than CC unemployment. The Government's opponents use this gap as part of their evidence to claim that the "real" level of unemployment is higher than unemployment as measured by the claimant count, currently 1.75 million, or 6.2 per cent of the workforce.

Recentlythe two measures have been diverging even more. From spring 1995 the two counts have moved even further out of line, even before the sharp drop in the claimant count seen from the end of last year with the start of JSA.

Looking at the CC figures for the same period as the ILO unemployment count to be published today, claimant unemployment dropped by an equivalent of 184,000. This represented a fall of 135,000 for men and 49,000 for women.

This is equivalent to falls of 9.2 per cent for men, and 10.6 per cent for women — or 9.5 per cent overall. For today's LFS figures to validate the claimant count fully, that would mean declines, in rounded terms, of 133,000 in male unemployment and 83,000 in female unemployment.

In other words (with figures again subject to rounding), today's ILO unemployment would have to fall from 2.33 million to 2.02 million — a drop of 212,000 — to give the fullest possible support to the monthly claimant count figures, on which the Government will place much emphasis today.

Unless the decline in the ILO count approaches this figure the Government's political opponents are likely to maintain their scepticism about the monthly unemployment figures.

Labour will be able to claim that the present joblessness level is still higher now, even after the recent extraordinary falls in unemployment, than it was when the last Labour government left office in 1979. But if the total drops again today, it will be an important political score for the Conservatives in advance of polling day.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS OF PAKISTAN

NOTICE INVITING

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR BOT PROJECTS OF
ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE IN PAKISTAN

National HIGHWAY AUTHORITY (NHA), invites expression of interest from interested Road Building and Operating Companies (RBOC's) for financing, designing, constructing and operating following sections of Trans Pakistan Motorway and other expressways/bridge.

Name of the Project	Length	Estimated Cost (Rs Million)
1. Lahore-Faisalabad Motorway (4 lanes)	99Km	Rs 10,241 M
2. Sheikhupura-Faisalabad-Multan D.G. Khan Motorway (4 lanes)	405Km	Rs 52,095 M
3. Karachi-Duraji-Kakar (near Dadu) (Phase I: 2 lanes) Expressway (Phase II: 4 lanes)	341Km	Rs 14,280 M (for Phase 1 only)
4. Gwadar-Ratodero Motorway (2 lanes)	885 Km	Rs 24,234 M
5. Peshawar-Torkhum Expressway (4 lanes)	46 Km	Rs 2,333 M
6. Islamabad-Murree Expressway (4 lanes)	42 Km	Rs 2,300 M
7. Makran Coastal Road (2 lanes)	653 Km	Rs 34,094 M
8. Additional Carriageway Hasanabdal-Abbottabad	83 Km	Rs 2,386 M
9. Mithankot, Rail-cum-Road Bridge	1.5 Km	Rs 19,019 M

RBOC's are expected to posses expertise of designing, constructing and operating a BOT project and therefore, must submit qualifications accordingly with profile of each member of the joint venture/consortium along with the confirmation by each member party to the RBOC for participation in the project. The prequalification of each RBOC will depend upon the qualification provided therein. The RBOCs must also identify possible and/or probable financing institutions from which they intend to arrange financing of the project.

The expression of interest shall contain the details to be provided under following headings

1. Expression of Interest
2. Composition of RBOC
3. Individual Profile of Each Member of RBOC, with details of previous BOT experience
4. Identification of Source of Financing
5. Proposed Methodology for Implementation of the Projects.
6. Copy of agreement of Joint Venture/Consortuim. Along with authority letter naming the lead company for correspondence with NHA on behalf of RBOC.

The last date for receipt of interest is 12th May, 1997. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all expressions of interest without assigning any reason thereof.

The pre-qualified RBOC shall be given opportunity to participate in submission of the proposals for the above projects, for which necessary guidelines will be issued by the NHA. For any further information, please contact the undersigned on any working day between 0900-1700 hrs.

(Raja Nowsherwan)
Chief Coordinator (Private Sector Cell)
NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY
RDF Building G-9/1, Islamabad, Pakistan: Ph: 051-260549 Fax: 051-264404

Equities rally strongly

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
469	407½	Allied Domecq	436½	+6½	6.8	13.2
626	547½	Bulmer (HP)	569	-10	3.0	16.9
75½	57½	Burn Stewart	60		7.1	14.9
1040	866	Glenmorangie A	1000		1.5	27.2
506	425½	Grand Met	493½	-2½	4.0	15.9
518½	424	Guinness	497½	+5	4.0	14.2
380	334	Highland Dist	344	+1	3.0	16.0
336	257	Matthew Clark	323	-5	9.3	15.4
109½	90½	Merrydown W	91½		6.3	12.4
1978¾	1462½	SA Breweries	1846¼	-3½	1.9	

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4706¼	3671½	ABN-AMRO	3909¾	+62½	2.9	16.4
811	710	Abbey Natl	790	+5	4.1	14.0
455½	388½	Allied Irish	427	+5	4.2	
409½	363½	Aus New Z	388½	-2½	5.1	
7678¾	5753¾	Bank America	6390¾	+143¾		
373½	291½	Bank Scotland	319½	+8½	2.9	11.7
1226	978½	Barclays	1025½	-4½	3.8	10.4
635	517¼	Bk of Ireland	611	+5	3.4	13.8
7890¾	6006½	Citicorp	6553¾	+87½		
1731¼	1260¾	Commerzbk	1596¼	-43¾	2.7	
862½	569¾	Dai Ich Kan Y	584¾	+18¾	0.7	
3490¾	2709¼	Deutsche Bk	3128¾	-6½	2.0	
912½	759½	Espirito Santo	890¾		3.8	12.6
872½	594½	Fuji Bank Y	631½	+27	0.7	
1622	1272½	HSBC	1519	+31	3.4	13.2
1563¾	1241	HSBC HK	1469½	+36½	3.5	12.7
605	483½	Irish Perm	572		2.8	
534	424	Lloyds TSB	513½	+7	3.2	16.6
819½	689½	Nat Aust Bk	758¾	-4	5.4	10.3
844½	666	Nat Westm	682½	+3	5.3	10.2
632½	508	Ryl Bk Scot	533½	+11½	4.4	11.8
900½	681	Stand Chart	847	+19½	2.1	15.2
£164¾	£164¾	Wells Fargo	£164¾		1.9	
374½	315½	Westpac	316	+½	4.2	10.3

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
878½	789	Bass	789	-12	4.0	15.6
68½	51½	Brk for the Bdr	52	-1½	4.0	14.2
205	170¾	Burtonwd Brw	182½	-1	3.9	16.4
155½	137½	City Centre Rest	140½	-1	2.3	
744½	612½	Compass Gp	678½	+1	1.6	26.9
290½	250	Eldridge P A	278½		2.4	17.1
495	435	Fuller Sm 'A'	482½		2.4	16.1
586	508½	Greenalls Grp	518½	-3	3.7	16.3
750	643	Greene King	695½		2.9	17.2
237½	164½	Grosvenor Inns	193½		3.9	18.7
285	218¾	Groupe Chez Gert	232½		1.6	22.8
298½	273½	Hardy Hanson	278		4.8	12.6
2825	2700	Holt J	2787½		2.6	15.0
78	63½	Inn Business	71½	-1	2.7	
357	343	Mansfield	351½		2.2	16.2
315½	252	Merston Tomp	285½	+2	3.3	10.7
615	563	Morland	585	-1	2.8	15.4
47½	32½	Paramount	35			
820½	527½	PizzaExpress	671½	+1	0.5	43.8
437½	337½	Ramsdens (H)	405	-4	1.5	38.2
378½	284	Regent Inns	316½		1.0	30.3
700½	639½	Scot & New	649½	+8½	3.9	19.7
289	248½	Vaux Group	269		4.9	12.8
1190	1105	Wetherspoon JD	1165	+7½	1.0	26.0
819	738½	Whitbread	770½	+2½	3.6	15.7
706½	627½	Wolvhmptn D	666½		3.2	14.7
433½	419½	Yates Bros	491		1.0	31.8
635	615	Young 'A'	635		3.0	25.3

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
32½	20½	AAF Inds	28½			
205	170	Abbey	200		3.5	20.5
302½	237½	Allen	302½		2.9	18.5
146½	90½	Amec	138½	+1	3.7	
492	347½	Amey	486		2.0	30.7
535	485	Andrews Sykes	535		1.2	11.8
284½	227½	Ashtead	266	-½	1.5	24.0
48½	29½	Avonside	46½		2.7	12.1
42	30	Bailey (Ben) Con	38½		4.3	7.8
39½	24½	Bandt	34		4.0	21.3
64½	49½	Barcom	57½		2.6	33.0
291½	247	Barratt Devst	256½	+9	4.2	14.3
210	162	Beazer	173	+8	4.4	13.4

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
465½	387½	Electrocmpnts	396½		2.2	24.0
226½	162½	Eurotks Elec	169	+1½	3.7	24.1
97½	78½	European Mtr	88½		7.5	9.0
253	220	Evans Halshaw	237½		8.7	
53½	41	Fife Indmar	45½		9.5	8.6
387½	322½	Firstlest Grp	350½	+¼	2.1	17.8
34½	27½	Gardiner	29½		4.0	11.3
79½	57½	Glenchewton	68½	+2	2.5	13.2
110	82½	Gowrings	108½	+7	3.5	
100	82	Hamlet	93½	+1	8.4	8.5
287½	239½	Harris (Philip)	242½	-1½	4.5	14.8
320½	284½	Headlam	310½		2.4	...
155	147	Holders Tech	148½		5.5	
240½	209	ISA Intl	229½		1.6	18.3
285	240½	Inchcape	259½	+10½	5.1	15.1
52½	48½	Jacks (Wm)	52½		4.8	18.1
248½	214½	Kwik-Fit	235½		3.0	18.9
367	316½	Lex Service	339	-1	5.9	11.2
122	102	Lookers	104		9.6	7.0
14½	11	Malaya Grp	13		6.3	11.8
8½	5½	Middlesex	7½	+¼	1.2	11.8
41½	31½	Midstates	32½	-2½	1.9	...
472	229	Norbain	246½	-3½	4.1	6.8
166½	131½	Northamber	146½	+2½	1.2	8.7
352½	305½	Partco	333½	+5	3.0	
404½	342½	Pendragon	367½	-1	3.4	17.0
223½	190½	Perry Gp	205		5.6	
751	455	Premier Farnell	489½	+6	2.9	19.0
152½	124½	Quicks Group	124½		7.0	
348	307½	REA	315		1.6	37.8
2½	2	Reece	2			
28	18½	Rolfeson	20		9.4	6.9
4	2¼	Ross Gp	3			
109½	78½	Ryland	91½		5.5	16.4
38	25¼	SEP Indl	27½	+1½	8.0	7.4
92½	56	Sellire	69		2.2	
415½	377½	Time Products	386		3.8	15.8
370	228	UMECO	255	+10	2.4	18.3
352½	292½	Vardy (Reg)	332½		2.6	14.6
650	498½	WF Elect	625		2.7	22.7
41	31½	Wilshaw	34¼	-¼	3.1	10.3
172½	147½	Wyko	147½		3.2	17.2
154½	110½	Young (H)	135½		3.9	11.7

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
430	327½	Antofagasta	390		1.7	
328	283½	Ascot Hldgs	395		2.2	
876	790	Boliden HR	792½	-7½	3.1	18.1
289	237½	BTR	253½	+4½	4.7	13.9
568	462	BAT	513	+3	6.3	10.9
195½	128	Bibby (J)	188½	+½	5.0	11.0
60½	53½	Brierley Inv	54	-½	8.8	8.8
856½	715	Charter	775	-1	4.8	10.9
366	210½	Cookson	213	+1½	5.0	13.4
229½	200½	Cosalt	206½	+1½	5.9	10.0
312½	255½	DCC	293½	+1	2.9	11.6
133	115½	Grampian Hldg	121½	-1	8.4	12.5
140½	124½	Hanson Csdl	127½		9.2	11.6
503½	423½	Hutch Whamp	445½	+5	2.3	18.4
438½	375	Imperial Tobacco	409½	+6	6.1	8.2
397½	335½	Jardine Mathe	339	+1½	4.5	
158½	123	Londro	133	+1	4.5	12.1
175½	161½	McLeod Russel	162½		5.2	13.2
446½	388½	Powell Duffryn	442½		7.1	17.4
145	113½	Ropner	145		7.1	12.5
190	153½	Staveley	177		6.5	12.7
602½	458½	Swire Pacific	477½	+2½	2.7	17.6
362½	327½	TI Group	357½	+2	2.7	15.5
296½	262½	Tomkins	288½	+1	4.8	13.4
210	185	Undare	190		9.6	
498	407½	Wardle Storeys	421	+8	5.9	15.4
387½	308½	Wassall	352½	+7½	2.1	21.6
168½	146½	Whitecroft	146½	-1½	4.3	11.7
345½	294½	Williams Hldg	314½	+1	6.2	13.0

ELECTRICITY

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
163½	125½	Br Energy P/P	136	-1	7.3	
671	660	East Midlands	670		5.9	9.9
570½	463½	Energy Group	504½	+9	5.2	9.7
708½	678½	London Elect	705½	+½	7.3	10.8
224½	182	National Grid	221½	-½	6.3	8.9
544	460½	National Power	540½	+5½	5.5	10.3
385	352½	Nthn Ireland	380	+12½	6.4	6.0
664	585½	PowerGen	640½	+2	4.4	7.4
392½	319½	Hydro-Elect	392½	+5	5.2	10.0
399	331½	Scottish Power	381½	+½	6.1	11.4
451½	373½	Southern Elec	434½	+6	8.7	9.4
927½	786½	Yorkshire Elec	926½		5.8	12.3

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
47½	30	Simon Eng	44			
227½	119½	Six Hundred	121		4.9	2.4
832½	742½	Smiths Ind	783½	+2½	2.7	18.9
730½	638½	Spirax-Sarco	702½	+1	2.6	18.5
303½	273½	Sterling Ind	275½	...	4.0	13.8
594½	515	TI	542½	+15	3.3	18.1
113½	101½	Tinsley (E)	106½	+3	6.9	11.0
120½	102½	TeraTec	115½	-1	2.6	
208½	177½	Triplex Lloyd	177½		4.9	10.0
167½	150½	Unicom Intl	162½	...	4.9	
77½	48½	Utd Inds	75½		4.1	21.4
273½	220	Vickers	220½		4.1	13.2
10½	8½	Villiers Grp	9½	-½		
712½	615	Vitec	633½		2.4	11.4
952	865	Vosper Thorny	867½		3.5	14.5
350	278½	Wagon Ind	280		8.8	8.6
263½	203½	Weir	245½		4.1	14.1
259½	231½	Wellington Hldg	231½	-1	4.4	
33	24	Wolman	24½	-½	9.3	5.3
61½	48	Wescol	54½		2.5	18.0
580	525	Wyatman	580	+5	2.9	17.5
65½	37½	Widney	37½	-7	11.7	11.3

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
140	120	Adwest	139½		7.0	19.6
197	188	Airflow Stream	195		5.1	8.4
757	688	Avon Rubber	700		3.5	13.5
107	97½	BSG	104		4.3	
270	227½	Bostrom	260		3.4	
18½	16½	Boustead#	16½		7.6	38.7
707	667½	First Tech	685		1.7	20.3
1039½	910	GKN	964½	-2½	3.4	
3653¼	3265¾	General Mtr	3300	+34¾	3.7	
583½	466½	Hawks	481½	+1½	3.9	11.4
1975½	1540¾	Honda Motor	1827½	+19	0.4	
412½	344½	Laird	407	+7½	4.1	11.4
228	188	LucasVarity	198	-2½	0.0	
165½	131	Mayflower	154		1.8	29.0
172½	157½	Sylone	162½		4.8	11.9
179	143½	T & N	147	-½	5.2	
85½	32½	Tead	40½	+½		
339½	277½	Trinity Hldgs	326½	-2	3.2	16.6

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
559½	454	AB Food	512	+3½	2.3	16.9
311½	271½	Acatos & Hutch	308½		4.1	41.6
45½	41½	Albert Fisher	42½		11.0	10.4
302	275	Banks (S G)	301		4.7	11.4
405	322	Barr (AG)	382½		2.8	20.7
43	30	Bensons Crisp	38		3.3	9.5
402	320	Booker	330½		9.5	
31½	20½	Borthwick	26		6.5	31.6
220	95	CPL Aromas	124		5.1	6.3
565½	464	Cadbury-Schwt	527	-6	4.0	14.4
98½	82½	Canadian Pizza	92½	-1	6.8	10.7
325	305	Carrs Milling	324		4.1	10.4
81½	60	Caughan	70½		6.6	
260	203½	Comeock	259½	+3	4.6	15.2
225	195½	Dairy Crest Group	209		5.4	10.3
363½	321½	Dalgety	338	-1½	8.1	29.5
52½	37½	Daniels St	48½		0.6	39.0
314½	263½	Devro	314		3.4	22.7
108½	79½	Finlay (James)	95	-9½	4.9	
274	250	Geest	256½		4.2	20.2
26	19½	Global	21½		3.9	
380	325	Greencore	325	-5	2.7	12.9
123	104½	Hazlewood Fds	110½	+2	7.6	8.2
200½	181	Hillsdown	197½	+2½	6.6	12.1
77½	52½	JLI Group	62	-½	10.0	
412	388	Linton Park	410		4.6	14.4
135	119	Matthews (B)	132	-½	3.9	10.4

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
94	79	Edin Dragon	80¾	+¼		...
30	24	Edinburgh Inca	28¾			
372½	343½	Edinburgh	363	+½	3.5	31.5
119	102½	EFM Japan	106	+1½		
502	420½	Electra Inv	458½		2.3	42.9
272	243	Electric Gen	262½	+1¾	1.8	56.6
267½	86½	English Nat	199	-1	0.2	
156½	144½	Eng & Scot	149	+½	2.5	38.8
406½	377½	European Asset	378		1.3	
108½	90½	Fidity Asian Val	91	+¼		
253½	216½	Fidity Euro Val	242	+1	0.2	..
47½	36	Fidity Jap Val	36		0.3	
136½	126	Fidity Spec Val	129½	+½	0.5	
226½	205½	Finsbury 'A'	208½	+1	2.3	46.9
195½	162½	Five Arr Chile	191½	+1½	1.6	56.5
28¼	22½	Five Arr Wts	23½	+1		
438½	375½	Fleming Amer	405½	+8	0.9	..
76½	66	Fleming Chinese	71½	+1½	0.9	
31	24½	Fleming Ch Wts	25½			
326½	280½	Fleming Claver	315	+1½	2.6	41.1
437	381	Fleming Cont	406½	+1	1.2	
142½	113	Fleming Em Mkts	128½	+½	0.2	
253	227½	Fleming Enpr	240½	+1½	2.8	30.5
293½	253½	Fleming F East	257½	+9½	0.6	
423½	407	Fleming Fledgt	408½	+1½	0.6	
110½	103½	Fleming Ing Inct	105		11.3	10.9
176	117	Fleming Ing Cap	162½	+½		..
51	43½	Fleming Indian	46½	+½	...	
22	15	Fleming In Wts	16			
197½	167½	Fleming Japan	173	+2		
384½	335½	Fleming Merct	365	+1	3.0	
114½	103½	Fleming Nat Rest	105½		0.6	
352	321½	Fleming Ocenct	323	+1	1.8	68.4
160½	139½	Fleming Smlr Co	156		3.6	32.6
164½	147½	Foreign & Colt	150½	+1½	1.9	51.8
97½	91½	F&C Inc Gwth	92½	+½	4.8	27.1
110½	85	F&C Emg Mkts	100½	+¼		
149½	123	F&C Enterprise	147½		2.0	49.4
331	295½	F&C Eurotst	306½	+½	0.5	
152½	133½	F&C German	146	+1½	0.5	
167	145½	F&C Pacific	147	+½	1.6	51.2
149½	142½	F&C PEP	143		3.6	33.0
185¾	166½	F&C Smaller	176¾	-1¾	1.7	70.4
136½	122½	F&C US Smlr	127½	+3½		
62½	56½	Framlgtn Inct	57		10.7	10.4
87½	80½	Framlin Cap	71	+½		
68½	40½	Framl Dual Cp	56½	-1		
19½	11	Fulcrum Cap	17½			
29	23	Fulcrum Inc	23½		38.9	2.2
180	175½	Fulcrum Zero	178½	+½		
257½	245½	Gartmore Brit	252		4.2	
251	234	Gartmore Ent	251		2.1	48.9
212½	190½	Gartmore Euro	204½		0.9	
90	77½	Gartmore Shrd	85		14.6	8.8
371½	319½	G'more Smlr Cos	362½	-½	2.0	67.2
45½	35½	Geared Inc Ord	39½		13.7	8.7
50½	17½	Geared Inc Inc	49½			
231½	183½	Genl Cons Cap	203½			
109	101½	Geoll Inct	104½	+1	12.1	9.8
125½	103½	German Inv	123		0.5	
266½	219½	Gov Asn Sm Cost	241	+1	0.3	
115	92½	Gov Emg Mkts	103		0.4	
207½	157½	Govett Am Smlr	165	+6		
87½	80½	Gov Glob Smlr	81½			
85½	71½	Govett High Inct	77		9.1	13.8
173½	153½	Govett Oriental	157½	+1½	0.5	
369½	338½	Govett Strategic	349	+2	2.6	41.4
492½	445	Greenfriar	469	+½	1.9	66.8
12½	8	Gresham House	12½		2.3	
121½	106½	GT Inc Growth	114	+½	3.6	
197	188½	GT Japan	184½	+3	1.1	79.3
103	92½	Guin Fl Ex Inct	96½		9.9	11.6
51	44½	Henderson Am Cp	47½	+¼		
107½	101½	Henderson Am In	106		9.2	11.9
21½	16	Henderson Am Wt	18½			
138½	120	Hend High Inct	130	+½	6.2	18.0
123½	109½	Hend Highlandt	118		6.4	
504	457	Hend Strats	488	+½	0.4	
104½	81½	Hend Tech	86	+2½		
151½	134½	Herald	136½		0.7	

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
196½	192½	Murray S/C DP	196	+¼		
220½	163½	Murray S/C Cap	199½			
73½	65½	Murray S/C Inc	66		21.9	5.3
3750	3150	Murray S/C Uts	3700		3.9	
485½	419	Murray Small	442½	+2	1.4	65.4
402½	387	Murray Ventt	390		4.8	31.8
5½	5½	Newmarket	5½			
407½	353½	O'seas Inv Tst	383	+2½	1.2	78.9
210½	156½	O'seas Wts	193½			
136	102½	Pacific Assets	103¼	+¼	0.5	
109½	98	Perp Inc Gth	103½		2.1	
54½	41	Perpetual Jap	41½	+½		
386½	318½	Perpl Uk Sm Co	334½		3.7	29.0
£138½	£128½	Personal Assets	£138		2.0	47.6
138½	109½	Pilot Inv	119¾		2.2	48.8
134½	113½	Prolific Inc	121	+¼	4.8	27.8
251½	229	RIT Cap Ptnr	238	+1	0.9	
542½	475½	Robeco	502½	-4	2.2	
551¼	497	Rolinco	519	-4	1.2	
108½	90½	Schrd Asia Pac	91½	+¼	0.3	
95½	79	Schrod Emg Cnt	85½			
138	117½	Schrod Inc Gwtht	127½	+1	3.9	24.2
58½	51	Schrod Jap Gwth	56½	+¼		
512½	410	Schrod Korea	453½	-¼		
29	19½	Schrod Split Cap	26			
115½	105	Schrod Split Inc	110		9.3	
146½	142½	Schrod Split Zero	144¼	+¼		
137½	126½	Schrod UK Gwth	137	+2	2.7	26.8
201½	183½	Schrod Vent Intl	184	-½		
299	273½	Scot	285½	+1½	2.6	46.3
184¼	169½	Scot American	172½	+1½	3.7	34.6
311½	269½	Scot Asian	269½			
855	655	Scot Wts	655	-5		
111½	98½	Scot Eastern	107½	+1½	2.2	
302	275½	Scot Mtge	287½	+3	2.1	48.5
100	93	Scot Natl Tst	97	+½	10.7	11.3
136½	117½	Scot Value	122		2.0	60.3
2128	1960	Second Alliance	1978½	+13½	3.1	38.9
111¼	95½	Secs Tst of Scot	102¼	+½	4.5	27.4
156½	133½	Shires Smlrt	147	+½	5.1	23.6
385	355	St Andrew Invt	371		3.2	38.5
409½	377½	Temple Bar	383	+2	5.2	21.8
87¼	76½	Throgmorton	83½		3.5	39.8
157½	131	Tolton Emg Mkt	143½		0.9	
195½	175½	TR City Of Lont	185	+½	4.2	28.3
176½	133	TR Euro Growth	164	+1½	2.6	
182½	160½	TR Far East	162½	+¼	5.3	24.3
119½	105½	TR Pacific	107	-½	0.3	
39	34½	TR Property	36	+½	3.5	35.7
244½	214½	TR Smlr Cos	227		2.2	42.1
363	323	TR Tech Invt	335	+2½	3.8	40.7
284½	206½	Turkey Trust	274½		1.6	
163½	147	Undervalued Ast	153½	-1	1.9	
151¼	137	Value Inc Tst	145	-½	3.9	32.8
89	75	Value Real	86	+1		
102½	86½	Voyageur Er Sm	100		0.7	
37	30½	Warrants & Val	35½			
88	77½	Wigmore	80½	+½	1.9	50.8
296½	263	Witan	281½		3.0	39.8
83½	76½	Yeoman Inct	79		23.9	5.1

LEISURE & HOTELS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
91½	75½	ABI Leis	85		7.2	8.4
1043½	797	Airtours	938½	+2	2.1	19.2
59½	38½	Ald Leist	39		2.7	22.5
59½	41½	Arcadian	58½		2.6	
167½	137½	BS Group	142½		3.9	
132½	117½	Baldwin	122½		4.2	
256½	211½	Ban & Wall	231½	-1	6.7	
200½	162	Bluebird Toys	197½		5.9	13.1
822½	747½	Boosey Hwks	822½	+57½	1.4	
2½	1½	Brent Walker	2			
41½	35	Burndene	38		6.6	10.1
218½	154	Capital Corpn	188½		5.6	
104½	77½	Cliveden	82½		2.7	14.5
100½	82½	Clubhaus	90	+½		28.2
237	180	Eurocamp	226½		6.1	12.4

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
338½	272	Jurys Hotel	331½	+1		
28	23½	Kunick	25		3.5	16.4
246	217½	Ladbroke	234	+2	3.3	25.8
419	298½	London Clubs	393½		2.5	26.0
231	184	Macdonald Hts	184	-1	2.7	20.0
733½	628	Man Utd	641½		1.1	29.3
91	73½	Mandarin Orntl	75	+1½	5.2	
412½	347½	Millennium & Copt	394	-1½	1.5	16.6
241½	191½	Northern	241½	+1	2.7	21.3
188½	117½	Prism Leisure	142½	-7½	5.4	7.7
38	29½	Queensborough	33		1.1	12.9
18½	12½	Queens Moat	13½		..	

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
56¼	43½	INVESCO Jap Dis	44			
89½	73½	INVESCO Korea	75½			
43½	35½	INVESCO Tokyo	36	+½		
93½	80½	J Fry 2nd U	91½	+2½	10.0	12.4
96½	82½	J Fry Euro Ut	91½	+1	6.1	14.7
162½	119	JF Fledg Jap	120½			
108½	92½	Jupiter Ex Inc	101		9.7	10.0
14½	3½	Jupiter Ex IncWt	10			
86	76½	Jupiter Gbl Capt	81½		11.9	10.4
36½	31	Jupiter Gbl Pfd	34½	+¼		
135½	120½	Jupiter Intl Grnt	122		4.0	
338½	293	Kleinwt Chrl	327½	+2	2.2	46.8
116½	98½	Kleinwt E Mkt	107½	+¼		

PHARMACEUTICALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
264½	192	Brit Biotech	247½	-7½		
1115	665	Cantab Pharms	972½	+2½		
673	470	Celltech	557½	-2½		
443½	312½	Chiroscience	380½	+14½		...
280	177½	Cortecs	237	+13½	3.7	23.0
1173½	885½	Glaxo Wellct	1116½	+17½		51.7
245	176	ML Laboratories	197½	+5		
330½	262	Medeval	311	-2	1.9	
403	238½	Peptide Thera	289	-8½		
92	24½	Proteus Intl	63½	+2½		
737½	362½	Scotia	430	+33½		
246	216	Shire Pharms	223½			
86½	64½	SkyePharma	84	+1		
960½	768½	SmithKline	908½	+10½	2.2	23.2
392	299½	Thera Apld Inc	364			
707½	512½	Vanguard	637½			
435	210	Xenova	384	+1½		
1930	1585½	Zeneca	1797½	-36½	2.4	25.4

PRINTING & PAPER

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
142	132	AG Holdings	132		5.7	11.0
782	712½	API	735		1.9	23.4
65	47½	App Holo	56½	+1		
202	151	Arjo Wiggins	191	-1½	4.9	16.2
201	130	Aspen Comst	176		4.4	
23½	17½	Bath Press	22½	-½	2.5	12.4
450½	419½	Bemrose	419½		4.5	
229½	182½	Blagden	185		1.7	
2646½	2178½	Bowater Inc	2384¾	-65¾		
321½	283½	Bowmore Intl	288½		1.3	
745	650	Br Polythene	651½		3.5	13.8
24½	14½	Br Thornton	20½			
148	113	Brittco Grp	113	-2	3.7	10.6
234	199½	Bundl	219½	+½	3.6	13.4
233½	186½	Capital Indst	191½		3.7	
388½	333½	Cropper (James)	358½		1.4	13.1
673½	521	De La Rue	559	+½	5.4	14.3
74½	74½	Delyn Group#	74½		3.4	14.8
229½	195½	Dolphin Pack	235½		3.9	
75½	62½	Fairway Group	62½		8.0	14.5
238	205	Ferguson Intl	205		8.1	10.9
165½	135½	Filofax	138½	+3	3.2	10.4
134	112½	Inveresk	116½		6.2	44.7
248½	200½	Jarvis Porter	227½		3.8	13.4
452	387	Low & Bonar	411½	+½	4.5	11.2
138½	110½	MY Holdings	121		5.6	16.8

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
200½	141½	MFI	151	-1	3.8	14.6
510½	458½	Marks Spencer	494½	+2½	3.0	18.5
545	445	Menzies (John)	471½		3.7	12.9
36½	22½	Merchant Retail	23			
1425	1156	Moss Bros	1300		2.2	
645	523½	Next	619	-2½	3.1	19.7
41½	29½	Oliver (G)	30			
535	477½	Ottlane Intl	507		3.1	15.6
74½	69½	Partridge Fine	72½		5.3	14.1
40½	28½	OS Hldgs	33½			
327½	299½	Poselhust	312½	...	3.1	17.8
95½	71½	Sears	78	+½	6.3	18.8
36½	28½	Signet Group	35½	-¼		
484	423	Smith WH	447	+2	4.4	
1110	927½	Sotheby's	945	+10	2.6	...
305½	231	Storehouse	238	+6	3.9	15.9
150	107	Stylo	111		5.2	17.2
202½	175½	T & S Stores	192½	+½	5.2	11.2
288½	154	Thorn	165½	-4½	10.9	12.8
203½	186½	Tie Rack	203		1.8	20.2
4	3	Upton & South	4			18.9
543½	491½	Vendome	515	+1½	2.5	19.1
26	19	WEW Group	19½			18.3
417½	132½	Wickes	149½	+½		
121½	76½	Wld of Leather	110½		2.3	23.3
282½	232½	Wyevale	282½		2.7	20.3

SUPPORT SERVICES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1670	1300	ADT	1590			
525	396	AEA Tech	490	+7	1.8	22.7
113	97	Alpha Airpts	98½		6.3	12.6
43½	34½	Alphameric	40	+½	...	15.6
387½	292½	Alldns WS	316½	+4	2.5	23.0
188½	152½	BNB Res	160	+3½	6.1	...
457½	394½	BPP	440		3.7	19.2
182½	142½	BSM	142½		6.7	10.6
699	416	BTG	634		0.8	
89½	69½	Brooks Servcor	80	+2½	6.5	
510	452½	Business Post	452½	-2½	2.6	23.1
1362½	840	CMG	1175	+22½	0.6	
250½	222½	CRT Gp	229½		2.3	28.9
805	590	Card Gp	772½	+5	1.3	7.1
828	485½	Capita Group	687½	+52½	0.9	48.6
9	6½	Chemex	7½	-½	2.6	17.9
439½	308	Chubb Sec	423	+2	2.8	28.6
236	172½	Corp Services	184½	+½	3.4	15.5
58½	45½	Coulls Cnslg	46½		6.4	
346	290½	DCS Gp	306½	+1	0.6	25.2
270½	232½	Davis Service	261	-½	4.9	14.5
910	730	Delphi	800		0.9	
252	170	Dudley Jenkins	207½		2.4	19.4
79½	49½	EW Fact	53½		4.8	
100	64½	El Data Prc	75½		3.6	11.4
602	479	FI Group	480	+1	1.1	38.9
578½	516	Hays	523½	-1½	2.0	21.6
313½	194½	Hogg Robinson	218	+4	5.2	10.0
837	530	JBA Hldgs	685		0.7	41.0
295	253	Johnson Cleanrt	271		5.4	
114½	89½	Kalamazoo	99½		5.3	10.2
622	521½	Lavell Sys	581		1.9	15.9
37½	25½	Laser-Scan	29½			
278½	156½	Lavendon	255½		1.7	19.6
115	105½	Leigh	108	+1½	4.5	
1067½	875	Logica	941	+2½	1.1	32.9
115½	85½	Lynx Hldgs	103	+1	2.1	19.2
62	30½	MDIS	43	-½	3.5	
632	527½	MMT Comp	561	-7	1.9	24.3

DISTRIBUTORS

PROPERTY

MEDIA

OTHER FINANCIAL

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TEXTILES & APPAREL

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

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Peugeot' deal saf 3,000 U

PEUGEOT, manufacture the British £100 million by announcing build a new safeguarding jobs.

Peugeot hatchback for the be in production next year and rooms by

The already make has become Britain sold here exports about £ mainland E

Dick director of confirmed terday and the progress made in empire.

Housing recovery 'gaining strength'

By Christine
Industrial Corres

RECOVERY in the market shows strengthening crease in the ability remaining high.

According House-Building which registers build new homes 8 per cent in the this year compared same period last year.

Excluding ation developments applications were private-sector of new homes the first three average of per cent increase.

Buyers are favourable council said. The of cash for first buyers is at one levels since the according to an NHB

But Imtiaz NHBC chief warned against mism: "Although now had eight steady recovery housing market long way to go conditions which levels of growth 1980s. It is still too of a housing boom."

Mr Farookhi growth was preferable erated development ket. He said: housebuilding industry now is a period sustainable growth government policies recovery on track. consumer confidence housing market is the ingredient to get numbers of potential ers to buy a new home."

American b take advanta buoyant ma

From Richard Thomson

AMERICAN banks enjoyed higher earnings in the first quarter of this year as they took advantage of active financial markets on Wall Street and overseas.

Chase Manhattan, the largest US bank, reported earnings of $927 million, compared with $89 million for the same period last year, which was hit by a $1 billion charge to cover its merger with Chemical Bank. Ignoring the merger costs, earnings rose 9 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

Revenue growth did meet the bank's targets. improved efficiency helped raise overall profitability. However, there was a rise bad debts on the bank's large credit card business as US consumer debt became more of a problem for most banks across the country.

Citicorp, the second-largest bank, saw net income rise per cent to $995 million compared with $914 million the same time last year. The loss ratio on Citicorp's US credit card business rose from 4.38 per cent to 5.91, contributing

Peugeot's £100m deal safeguards 3,000 UK jobs

By Kevin Eason, motoring editor

PEUGEOT, the French car manufacturer, yesterday gave the British motor industry a £100 million vote of confidence by announcing that it will build a new car in Coventry, safeguarding almost 3,000 jobs.

Peugeot expects the 206 hatchback — a replacement for the popular 205 model — to be in production by the end of next year and in the showrooms by 1999.

The Coventry plant at Ryton already makes the 306, which has become a best-seller in Britain with nearly 59,000 sold here last year. Ryton also exports production worth about £250 million back to mainland Europe.

Dick Parham, managing director of Peugeot in the UK, confirmed the investment yesterday and said it underlined the progress that Ryton had made in Peugeot's European empire. Quality levels at Ryton were now among the best in Peugeot while productivity had risen markedly.

Fears were growing that executives in France would take their investment plans elsewhere after workers at Ryton threatened last month to strike against a new deal on pay and conditions. But the workforce agreed to introduce flexibility on assembly lines in return for an increased 5 per cent wage offer, paving the way for the introduction of the new car. The new deal on flexibility, involving multi-skilling, allows extra shifts and production without extra recruitment. The deal swung the investment to Ryton in the face of competition from France and Spain.

The investment is a huge vote of confidence in Ryton, which has had a chequered history and lagged behind the revolution in the rest of the British motor industry. The factory originally belonged to the Rootes Group before falling into the hands of Chrysler of the United States, but Chrysler pulled out of Europe, selling its interests to the PSA Peugeot-Citroen group for $1.

Peugeot started production at Ryton by making the 309 and then switched to the Peugeot 405 medium-sized saloon, though that was taken back to France, leaving Ryton with the smaller 306. Improvement in productivity has increasingly impressed French executives, who decided to make Ryton a key centre for manufacture of a sedan version of the 306 for the European market.

☐ Toyota's UK plant is to supply more than 350,000 components a year to its parent company in Japan. The £1.8 million annual contract is for rear windscreen-mounted stop lamps and wiper motors, arms and blades.

Graham Lawson, of Watts Blake Bearne, where the total dividend is increased to 16.2p in spite of a fall in earnings

Watts suffers from strong pound

WATTS BLAKE BEARNE & Co, the processor of clay, sand and gravel, blamed sterling's strength and cost of investment for a fall in pre-tax profits to £10.7 million from £11.25 million in 1996.

The company, whose chief executive is Graham Lawson, said yesterday that operating profits were maintained at £12.18 million, against £12.2 million, in difficult markets. At the previous year's exchange rates, operating profits would have risen by 3.5 per cent. Group turnover was £102.93 million, down from £104.87 million. Devon Clays, the core subsidiary, suffered a 1.5 per cent fall in sales volumes, primarily because of the slowdown in the home market, though it exports about 80 per cent of output.

The total dividend is increased to 16.2p a share from 15.2p, with an 11.8p final, in spite of a fall in earnings to 29.1p a share from 31.7p. The shares were unchanged at 435p. The company is 49.5 per cent owned by SCR-Sibelco, of Belgium.

Sedgwick and Nikols to merge

By Marianne Curphey

SEDGWICK, the insurance broker, is to merge its southern European and Latin American operations with Nikols, the largest Italian insurance group.

The link-up, via a joint venture, will cover risk services, insurance and reinsurance broking and employee benefits consulting. Sedgwick did not give details of the numbers involved but said the deal was "of strategic significance as both partners are committed to growing their market share ... and to becoming the leading advisers in southern Europe and Latin America".

Sedgwick said the deal fitted in with its aim to be one of the top three brokers in each European country in which the group operates. Sedgwick has come under increasing pressure to merge with another broker, the favourite being rival Willis Corroon, to cut costs. Institutional shareholders have expressed dissatisfaction over the performance of its shares.

Housing recovery 'gaining strength'

By Christine Buckley
Industrial correspondent

RECOVERY in the housing market shows further signs of strengthening, with an increase in housebuilding and the ability of people to buy remaining high.

According to the National House-Building Council, which registers applications to build new homes, activity rose 8 per cent in the first quarter of this year compared with the same period last year.

Excluding housing association developments, 34,000 applications were made for private-sector housing. Sales of new homes were strong in the first three months at an average of 632 each day, a 15 per cent increase.

Buyers are also enjoying favourable conditions, the council said. The availability of cash for first-time home buyers is at one of its highest levels since the early 1970s, according to an NHBC index.

But Imtiaz Farookhi, NHBC chief executive, warned against over optimism: "Although we have now had eight months of steady recovery in the new housing market there is still a long way to go before we see conditions which match the levels of growth seen in the 1980s. It is still too early to talk of a housing boom."

Mr Farookhi said slower growth was preferable to accelerated development of the market. He said: "What the housebuilding industry needs now is a period of gentle sustainable growth backed by government policies to keep recovery on track. Long-term consumer confidence in the housing market is the essential ingredient to get increasing numbers of potential purchasers to buy a new home."

Ropner passes on final payout

Ropner, the shipping, property and engineering group taken over in February by Jacobs Holdings, reported a 66 per cent slump in pre-tax profits from £4.62 million to £1.57 million for the year to December 31. The results, the last from Ropner as an independent company, also saw earnings per share fall from 12.9p to 1.5p. There will be no final dividend, making a 3.5p (8.25p) total.

Hemingway up

Hemingway Properties, the property trading and investment group, lifted pre-tax profits to £6.5 million (£2.9 million) in 1996. Earnings per share almost doubled to 3p. A final dividend of 0.38p will be paid on May 30, lifting the total to 0.55p (0.5p).

Mid-States rise

Mid-States, a supplier of automotive components in the US, reported pre-tax profits up from £3.7 million to £4 million for the year to December 31. Earnings per share rose 4 per cent to 5.3p. A final dividend of 0.24p, due July 24, brings the total to 0.48p (nil).

Ross improves

Ross Group, the electronics and engineering company, reported pre-tax losses of £223,000 for the year to December 31, against a £7.3 million loss the previous year. The loss per share fell to 0.25p (5.09p). There is no dividend.

Jerome ahead

S Jerome, the textiles manufacturer, raised pre-tax profits 20 per cent to £1.14 million in the year to December 31. The total dividend rises 33 per cent to 3p, after a 2p final. Earnings per share rose 8 per cent to 8.1p.

American banks take advantage of buoyant markets

From Richard Thomson in New York

AMERICAN banks enjoyed higher earnings in the first quarter of this year as they took advantage of active financial markets on Wall Street and overseas.

Chase Manhattan, the largest US bank, reported earnings of $927 million, compared with $89 million for the same period last year, which was hit by a $1 billion charge to cover its merger with Chemical Bank. Ignoring the merger costs, earnings rose 9 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

Revenue growth did not meet the bank's targets, but improved efficiency helped to raise overall profitability. However, there was a rise in bad debts on the bank's large credit card business as US consumer debt became more of a problem for most banks across the country.

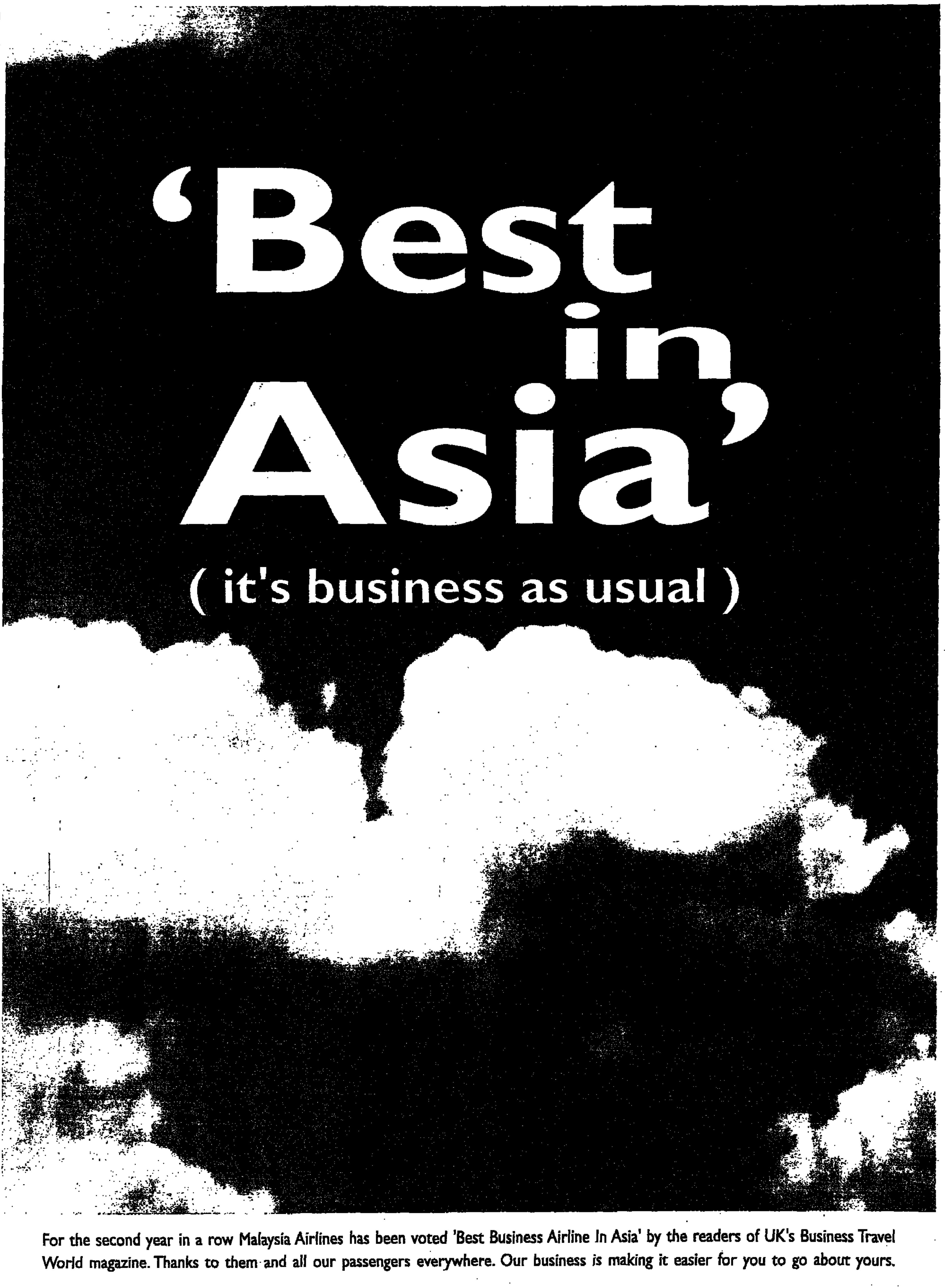
Citicorp, the second-largest bank, saw net income rise 9 per cent to $995 million, compared with $914 million at the same time last year. The loss ratio on Citicorp's US credit card business rose from 4.38 per cent to 5.91, contributing to a 3 per cent decline in earnings on the consumer credit operation.

The bank said that its main effort will go into overseas expansion, particularly in emerging markets, a process that will gather momentum over the next year.

Merrill Lynch, one of Wall Street's biggest investment banks, also reported higher first-quarter profits, with a record three-month result of $465 million, up 14 per cent on last year. The bank said it had become the world's leading underwriter in debt and equity issues and is also the leading adviser on mergers and acquisitions.

Salomon Inc, the holding company for Salomon Brothers, the investment bank, fared less well. It suffered a steep fall in first-quarter profits from $310 million a year ago to $175 million.

Return on equity slumped from $29.7 per cent to 13.4 per cent. Robert Denham, chairman, said market conditions had been more difficult so far this year than last year.



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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

For AIB see Govett (John)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	732.80	787.00	+ 3.60	2.35
General Inc	597.20	635.40	+ 2.90	2.35
UK Growth Acc	500.50	532.50	+ 2.30	2.51
UK Growth Inc	330.00	349.50	+ 1.60	2.51
Higher Inc Acc	899.40	956.90	+ 3.70	3.96
Higher Inc Inc	471.90	502.10	+ 2.00	3.96
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	214.10	226.00	- 0.10	5.60
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	91.48	96.82	- 0.02	5.60
Nth America	338.90	360.60	+ 0.90	.
Europe	387.80	412.40		0.31
Brit Excell	98.54	104.90	+ 0.50	2.81
Brit Fndmtls Acc	126.60	134.70	+ 0.30	4.58
Brit Fndmtls Inc	83.48	88.79	+ 0.19	4.58
Global Opps	101.80	108.40	+ 0.10	0.11
Balanced Acc	65.84	70.05	+ 0.18	2.34
Balanced Inc	60.91	64.80	+ 0.17	2.34
Japan Acc	36.87	39.02	+ 0.22	.
Pac Basn Acc	374.00	398.60	- 1.40	0.99
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	131.80	139.90†	+ 0.40	8.65
High Inc Equity	194.20	207.70†	+ 0.20	4.57
Worldwide Bond	262.00	277.80	+ 0.20	4.32
American Growth	406.20	434.40	+ 3.40	0.36
Asian Pacific	314.80	336.50	- 0.20	0.41
Assets & Earnings	318.00	340.10	+ 0.10	2.78
Euro Capital Acc	199.70	213.80	+ 1.90	0.74
Extra Inc	42.85	45.59†	- 0.02	8.03
General	288.30	308.70	+ 0.60	3.00
Global Opps	72.88	77.53	+ 0.41	0.52
Japan	84.86	90.78	+ 0.83	
Managed Inc	48.99	52.12†	+ 0.07	4.32
Mastertrust	172.30	184.30	+ 0.20	1.30
US Emerging Cos	172.30	184.30	+ 0.20	...
Ethical	86.90	92.45	+ 0.25	1.59
International	134.50	143.10	+ 0.50	0.61
Dividend & Growth	72.56	77.18	+ 0.04	4.35
Global Gwth & Sec	74.97	79.98	+ 0.01	2.53
Latin America	80.85	86.01	- 0.37	0.45
Capital Reserve	148.50	148.50	+ 0.10	4.71
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	96.31	102.40	+ 0.38	2.34
Equity Income	135.90	144.50	+ 0.60	4.16
Extra Income	269.20	280.00	+ 0.50	6.44
Smaller Cos	113.00	120.20†	+ 0.40	1.49
International	114.60	121.90†	+ 0.30	1.43
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2537.00	2637.00		.
ARTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	61.41	63.70†	+ 0.44	
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Latin American	69.32	72.02	- 0.50	0.69
Pacific	78.66	82.59†	- 0.22	0.32
Property Share	81.56	85.63	- 0.11	2.05
UK Emerging Cos	71.87	77.68	+ 0.41	1.24
UK Growth	56.43	60.85†	+ 0.20	1.98
Abex World Port #	84.83	86.74	+ 0.14	2.87
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UK Smlr Cos	54.68	58.46†	+ 0.05	1.61
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	809.72	821.96		4.19
Inv Fd Acc	809.72	821.96		.
Fxd Int Sec Inc	155.60	156.21		9.16
Fxd Int Sec Acc	155.96	156.21	...	
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	800.91	813.07	...	4.26
Investment Acc	537.76	538.33	..	
Fixed Int Inc	126.20	126.70	.	9.16
Fixed Int Acc	240.07	241.03		.
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Dragon Growth	68.74	73.51	- 0.34	0.42
Equity High Inc	97.61	103.50	+ 0.46	3.76
-do- Accum	143.39	151.73	+ 0.71	3.76
Extra Income Inc	26.58	27.98†	+ 0.03	7.21
Extra Income Acc	30.08	31.66	+ 0.03	7.21
European Gwth	66.63	70.72	+ 0.29	0.49
Evergreen	30.58	32.70	+ 0.08	0.01
General Equity	114.96	121.33	+ 0.72	2.87
Japan Growth	36.07	38.37	+ 0.06	
Pedigree Gwth	68.08	72.84	+ 0.45	2.17
Pef Sm Cos Inc	41.36	43.77	+ 0.02	1.17
-do- Accum	44.09	46.66	+ 0.02	1.17
Retirement Inc #	29.86	31.87	+ 0.18	5.59
Special Sits	50.41	54.20	+ 0.23	2.68
UK & Overseas	61.47	65.06	+ 0.18	0.72
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 888 000				
Balanced	74.04	77.12	+ 0.32	4.01
Capital	88.84	82.33	+ 0.47	2.38
High Income	52.75	54.94	+ 0.12	6.73
Top 50	60.94	63.47	+ 0.36	2.54
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
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PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	202.04	210.46†	+ 0.80	4.37
Long Gilt	43.66	45.48†	+ 0.15	6.24
Monthly Inc Plus	51.35	53.50†	+ 0.16	6.37
Preference Share	48.43	50.45†	+ 0.12	7.73
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	147.06	153.20†	+ 0.47	5.57
Managed Fund	77.79	81.04†	+ 0.21	2.73
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	55.30	57.61†	+ 0.11	1.65
-do- Accum	66.13	68.89†	+ 0.13	1.65
UK & General	103.95	108.29†	+ 0.34	2.78
-do- Accum	137.81	143.57†	+ 0.46	2.78
UK Growth	210.71	219.51†	+ 0.34	1.26
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	223.97	233.33†	+ 0.52	0.62
Far Eastern Gth	122.76	127.88†	+ 0.36	0.08
Global Bond	72.41	75.43†	- 0.33	6.57
Japan Growth	90.20	93.97†	+ 0.56	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
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Intl Growth	89.12	94.80	+ 0.28	0.59
Ecology	110.65	117.71†	+ 0.04	0.88
European	225.10	239.40	- 0.39	0.21
Far Eastern	302.20	321.40	- 1.20	
UK Special Sits	59.80	63.78†	+ 0.21	0.38
Fd of Inv Tsts	55.53	59.23	+ 0.12	
High Income #	54.18	57.79†	+ 0.20	4.85

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
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Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
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Intl Bond	62.30	65.44		4.80
Intl Equity Growth	84.61	89.88	+ 0.29	0.64
N Amer Growth	141.13	149.98†	+ 0.85	0.83
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-do- Accum	684.68	728.38	+ 1.39	2.50
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-do- Accum	109.10	116.10	+ 0.40	2.75
Gilt Yield	119.20	125.70†	+ 0.40	6.43
Global Income	233.00	247.90	- 0.50	3.22
High Yield	167.90	178.60†	+ 0.90	5.22
-do- Accum	566.00	602.10†	+ 3.10	5.22
Money Market	99.49	99.49†	+ 0.01	5.47
Smlr Cos Inv	66.54	70.79	- 0.05	3.66
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	10.16	10.34	+ 0.04	
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-do- Accum	222.10	228.90	+ 0.80	2.36
UK Sel Pfolio	169.60	174.00	+ 0.90	2.25
-do- Accum	206.50	211.90	+ 1.20	2.25
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-do- Accum	129.60	129.60†	+ 0.80	2.51

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THE TIMES

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CONCERTS:

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THE TIMES ARTS

■ YOUTH

From London's high-rise estates to the Albert Hall: a bold new project gives teenagers a chance

■ MUSIC 1

A new sort of *Eroica*: Mark Wigglesworth blows the cobwebs off Beethoven

■ MUSIC 2

Family matters: Shostakovich's music is interpreted at the Festival Hall by his son

■ MUSIC 3

Follow my lieder: Ian Bostridge makes his mark in a fine recital of Schubert

Miracle in the gangsta's paradise

Richard Morrison joins some talented boys and girls from the 'hood on their way to the Albert Hall

ALAN WELLER

Busting out of Bollo Bridge: "I'm just helping these brothers and sisters out of their shells," says New York rapper Evress Nahum-Sonson (in red jacket) of his role in the making of Miracles

What's the distance from the Bollo Bridge Youth Club in Acton, West London, to the Albert Hall? Three miles? A short bus ride? Wrong. It's the length of a lifeline. Next week dozens of youngsters will leave that club — a bleak, heavily barricaded hut on one of West London's grimmest estates — and make the journey to the Albert Hall. As performers, not spectators. So will hundreds of other teenagers from youth clubs across ten London boroughs.

They will stage a show called *Miracles*, and the title is apt. True, it will involve some of the capital's best youth ensembles. But it will also include many youngsters who, six months ago, would no more have thought of putting on a performance in public than they would of walking on the Moon.

Nor would they have possessed the confidence or skills to do so. Some were already being written off as failures, falling off the edges of "the system", drifting into apathy and worse. How they have been given the chance to discover their potential and their pride is one of the most positive stories to happen in the arts this year.

It begins with Mark Stephenson, a former cellist who now conducts his own orchestra, London Musici. Like others in the orchestral field, he is worried that the audience for symphony concerts is drawn from too narrow a social and age range. "Our population has changed dramatically, and if orchestras are to survive they have got to address that vast, diverse new audience," he says.

Most British orchestras now have community projects, taking the players into local schools. But Stephenson's plan was altogether more ambitious. He wanted to establish links with the admirable (but scantily funded) youth clubs that attempt to give teenagers somewhere safe to go after school in some of London's most difficult areas. He also wanted to give the youngsters access to some of the best professional advice and equipment available, and then to put on a show that would somehow bridge the gap between the music predominantly of interest to the kids on the street — which means rap, hip-hop and soul — and the world of orchestras and classical music. "It was a gamble. I had never come across rap before in my life. But I have always felt that performers have a big social role to play."

Over more than two years Stephenson's scheme took shape. The first step was to obtain the backing of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. "They were keen to lose their hairy-knees image, and to reach into the highrise estates," Stephenson says. In particular, Prince Edward (who chairs the Award's special projects group) gave his support. That gave Stephenson the clout to approach the youth services in ten London boroughs. "At first there was suspicion; a scepticism about people like myself descending for a single project. The local authority youth services have been put under so much pressure recently that they are very defensive about what they are already doing. But we've got through that stage. They realise we are committed."

Next, Stephenson recruited a team of professional musicians, actors, dancers and poets to go into the youth clubs and work with the youngsters. "The idea was predominantly to give them role models. That meant a strong black presence: really good people who the kids can relate to."

They include rappers like the London-born but Brooklyn-bred Evress Nahum-Sonson, the Rambert dancer/choreographer Sheron Wray, jazz pianist Nikki Yeoh and the prodigiously talented young composer Paul Gladstone Reid. It is Reid who has written the 50-minute *Miracles* that will comprise the second half of the Albert Hall event, bringing together London Musici, African drummers, a rock band, professional dancers, and a choir of about 500 to perform a fable about youngsters growing up in London.

"The first thing that the professionals had to do was to establish trust," Stephenson says. "Initially the youngsters didn't believe that what I told them would actually happen. There are some very tough kids there. In their lives so far, very few people have given a damn. But the next thing was to impress on them that they had to work damn hard to achieve any worthwhile goals. Yes, performing is fun. But it's no different from sport: you need discipline, skills, dedication."

And, of course, money. The *Miracles* project cost about £300,000, which perhaps explains why such schemes don't happen every week, or in every British city. But Stephenson found a surprising ally in the merchant bank, Singer & Friedlander, which became the principal sponsor.

"The managing director got a bit of a shock when he heard the rappers," Stephenson recalls, "because we haven't sanitised it in any way. We have simply tried to suggest that they adopt a positive attitude and say something about themselves and their own situation, rather than just copying American gangsta rap." There are also contributions from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, Marks & Spencer and Channel 4, while Doc Martens has paid for the dance element and Yamaha has made a vital gift of musical equipment.

Each of the ten boroughs will have its slot in the first half of the Albert Hall concert, having previously performed the material locally. The fare will be varied. Hillingdon is sending a percussion ensemble; other youth clubs offer steel bands, dance troupes, gospel singers and new drama.

Behind the locked doors and fortified windows of the Bollo Bridge Centre I watched Nahum-Sonson coaxing the youngsters from Acton into producing a rap and hip-hop show that is raw but sparky. "I can't categorise my role here," he says. "I'm just helping these brothers and sisters out of their shells, because they have everything they need inside — if they know how to use it."

That's the point, isn't it? London's inner-city youth has had a bad press lately, thanks to the horrific deeds of a few teenage gangs. And of course it is important that we get to grips with the knife-culture, the seedy arcades with their mind-warping video games, the ubiquitous drug pushers and the intimidation stalking many estates and secondary school playgrounds.

But zero tolerance by itself isn't enough. We also need to hold out hope and opportunity. *Miracles* won't be perfect when it comes to fruition in the Albert Hall next week, but it will bring hope. For some youngsters, it might be the most hopeful thing that has ever happened to them. And after that the chief question, for professionals and youngsters alike, will be: where do we go from here?

- Miracles *is at the Albert Hall (0171-589 8212) on April 24 at 7.30pm*

CONCERTS: Variations on Prokofiev for cello; Shostakovich for the next generation; a rural marathon round Beethoven; and Schubert's fine swansong

Potted chamber

BBC NOW/ Wigglesworth
Cardiff

When Prokofiev died in 1953 he left sketches for, among other things, two works intended for *Mstislav Rostropovich: a solo* sonata and a Concertino for cello and orchestra. The solo sonata seems to have remained undisturbed. The Concertino, on the other hand, has been resurrected in three different performing versions — one for cello and piano edited by Rostropovich himself, one for cello and orchestra scored by Dmitri Kabalevsky and, now, one for cello and chamber orchestra arranged by Vladimir Blok.

Steven Isserlis, who has long been a champion of the cello and piano version, has never been comfortable with Kabalevsky's orchestration — presumably because its large-scale sound is out of keeping with the intimate material and the modest proportions of the piece. As he demonstrated in a movingly committed first performance of the Blok score with Mark Wigglesworth and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the Concertino is very *much more* convincing in a chamber-orchestra version.

If it is less than completely convincing it is because the last of the three movements, the least advanced at the time of Prokofiev's death, would surely not have survived in anything like its present form if the ailing composer had considered the implications of basing it on a theme so similar to one he had already used in the recently revised Sinfonia Concertante for cello and orchestra. Even so, the Concertino treatment of that theme does yield some lively and interesting new variants and it does provide an acceptable ending to a work abundant in cantabile melody in its first two movements, and far too valuable in its lyrical inspiration to be ignored. What a pity that Blok, who died earlier this year, could not be in Cardiff to hear it.

There was another example of *resurrection*, in a different sense, in the second half of the concert in St David's Hall. Performed in a new, minutely revised edition by Jonathan Del Mar, Beethoven's *Eroica Symphony* emerged in extraordinarily fresh colours. How much of this was to do with the actual revisions and how much to do with a renewed attention to the written detail it is difficult to say. But such features as the breathless hush before the famous "false" entry of the horn in the first movement were as effective as they only rarely are.

GERALD LARNER

Playing by the book

Philharmonia/ Shostakovich
Festival Hall

This was a night of fathers and sons, with Maxim Shostakovich conducting a programme of Dmitri's music and Igor Oistrakh performing one of the *concertos dedicated to David. It is tempting to have unreasonable expectations of magic* when descendants perform, *particularly when the resemblances are so strong: the years have graven onto Maxim's open face* Dmitri's sad, sloping eyes and down-turned mouth, while Igor is uncannily in the image of his father.

Both share a Shostakovian vision of great purity and strength. Yet at times it seemed an all-too-clearly decided version of the music was being spelt out to us in words of one syllable. The sense of dreaming exploration in the First Violin Concerto was missing, the highly measured Fifth Symphony was in danger of losing momentum.

The concerto, written ten years after the symphony and *out of official earshot, is on a* more massive symphonic scale, and is a profound, mature and elusive work. Igor Oistrakh has his father's broad, rich tone. But his robust professional approach to the mysterious, seamless opening melody allowed for too few moments of poetry, and the unbearable beauty of the long Passacaglia was handled roughly, tuning awry. A low vibrato and a fast bow *may have stolen from the* intensity of the introspective cantilenas, but Oistrakh sprang to life in the scherzo, burlesca and cadenza, *reviving a virtuoso technique still* intact.

Maxim Shostakovich took the Festival Overture at breakneck speed, *capturing all its trite emptiness at a stroke*. Yet *in general his speeds have* slowed. The symphony's Scherzo was unmannered and demonic; his steady speed for the finale's repeated high note produced a macabre chilling effect; and he found time and space for cadences of quiet grace in the first movement.

Yet from the very sober opening one almost felt as if a musical dictation was being given from a great distance. His instinct that one needn't add burlesque or irony to the composer's heavily impregnated scores is surely right: but can the stark simplicity of the Fifth take so literal an approach?

HELEN WALLACE

Good value for a tenor

Ian Bostridge
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Schubert died tragically young, as the bicentenary of his birth this year and 170th anniversary of his death next year remind us. *With hindsight it is all too easy* to hear his transcendental "late" music as a farewell to life, and one of the best things about Ian Bostridge's sharply focused programme of *Schwanengesang* and other *songs from 1828, was that it* showed instead how Schubert *was on the verge of inconceivable new developments when* he was overtaken by death.

Monday's performance drew a full house: this benefit recital for the excellent Young Concert Artists Trust marked *Bostridge's Queen Elizabeth* Hall debut. The tenor, himself not long ago a YCAT artist, *has gathered a considerable* following. Any fears about how he would cope with a hall of this size were quickly dispelled: he might have sung with greater emotional intensity in a more intimate space, and less placid accompaniment from Julius Drake might have helped, but his slender voice projected tellingly.

After some recent hints of vocal tiredness, Bostridge was on fine form. His German could still be more idiomatic, but he is among this country's *most refined, responsive lieder* singers. One advantage he has over many English tenors is an ability really to colour the voice, varying it even within a phrase: each of the settings in *Schwanengesang* was brought to individual life.

The six Heine numbers in Schwanengesang were sung with stark concentration, with the explosive *Atlas* pointing towards late Romanticism and *Ihr Bild* touching even Expressionism. Unbearable loneliness was the only emotion common to the otherwise varied songs. The tenor sang gently floated lines in *Ständchen* with special feeling, and both artists lightened up for the traditional encore of *Die Taubenpost*, Schubert's last song, which turns back to charm and good humour.

JOHN ALLISON

Swiss raise the tempo

Zurich TO/Zinman
Festival Hall

For its contribution to the so-called London International Orchestral Season, the Zurich Tonhalle *Orchestra stuck to a middle*-brow course with the emphasis on Beethoven. Heirs to the oldest orchestral tradition in *Switzerland, the players were* responsive to the well-rehearsed preparation of their music director, David Zinman.

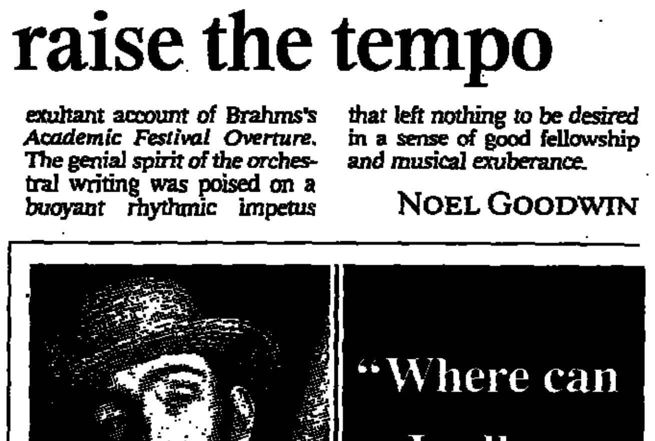
He is an energetic conductor who imparts a corresponding vitality to his performances, as he did in Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony* by seeming at the outset in a hurry to savour the feelings Beethoven had on his excursion into the countryside. Zinman set a pace more like a marathon than a relaxed en*joyment of his surroundings.*

The strings sounded bold and incisive, the woodwind variously well-pointed, and the brass mellow and rounded. The brook babbled fulsomely in lilting triple time, the peasants went about their merry-making as if afraid of *the impending thunderstorm*, which broke about them rap*idly before Zinman sobered* down the music for a heartfelt thanksgiving hymn.

The programme began with Radu Lupu, a sometimes jaunty but always fastidious soloist in Beethoven's B flat Piano *Concerto (No 2), where again* no time was lost in setting a bustling tempo. The pianist adorned the first movement with what I took to be his own perceptive cadenza, leading on to a ruminative slow movement and a ravishing finale.

The visitors presented their *calling-card at the outset in an exultant account of Brahms's Academic Festival Overture. The genial spirit of the orchestral* writing was poised on a *buoyant rhythmic impetus that left nothing to be desired in a sense of good fellowship and musical exuberance.*

NOEL GOODWIN



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See p.46

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Beethoven **Symphony No.6 Pastoral**

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Patron Her Majesty the Queen
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Libor Pesek conductor
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■ CHOICE 1

Lynne Dawson sings Cleopatra in Handel's oratorio, *Alexander Balus*

VENUE: Tonight in the Queen Elizabeth Hall

■ CHOICE 2

A West End transfer for Peter Whelan's *The Herbal Bed*

VENUE: From tonight at the Duchess Theatre

THE TIMES ARTS

■ CHOICE 3

The Admirable Crichton, with Ian McShane, opens the Chichester season

VENUE: Now in preview at the Festival Theatre

■ VISUAL ART

Magritte and other delights at the Palazzo Grassi; strange sounds in the air at RIBA

LONDON

ALEXANDER BALUS: The King's Consort performs Handel's militaristic oratorio (1748) in the Queen Elizabeth Hall at 7.45pm. A star-studded line-up of soloists includes Lynne Dawson, Ciaron McFadden, and Catherine Denley in the title role, with the Choir of New College, Oxford, and the Choir of the King's Consort. At 7.30pm in the Festival Hall, Okko Kamu conducts the **Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra** in Sibelius's *Karelia* Suite, songs from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* by Mahler and Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony. With Anne Larson, mezzo-soprano, Peter Mattei, baritone.
South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242).

THE HERBAL BED: Peter Whelan's fascinating play transfers from the Barbican: some cast changes but Teresa Banham continues to play *Shakespeare*'s daughter, and Stephen Boxer her Puritan inquisitor.
Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm.

THE UBU PLAYS: *First in a season of* European satire: John Wright directs a centenary production of Jarry's anarchic, prescient masterpiece. *Kenneth McLeish* translates the saga of monstrously vulgar and cruel King Ubu.
Gate, 11 Pembridge Road, W11 (0171-229 0706). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens April 18, 7.30pm.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

ELSEWHERE

BRIGHTON: Torsion Theatre lays bare a mindless consumer culture of sex, drugs and pulp entertainment in its energetic adaptation of Aldous Huxley's apocalyptic novel, **Brave New World**.
Komedia, 14-17 Manchester Street (01273 277772). Tonight-Sat, 8pm.

CHICHESTER: The summer season begins with the tropical island setting of J.M. Barrie's **The Admirable Crichton**, where Ian McShane's perfect butler and *Michael Denison's noble earl* find the needs of survival alter social precedence. Michael Rudman directs and Johan Engels designs.
Festival, Oaklands Park (01243 781312). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm; mat Thurs, 2.30pm. Opens April 22, 7.30pm. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm, some Suns at 3pm. In rep, until June 8. Ⓢ

DUNDEE: **The Royal Scottish National Orchestra** offers Haydn's Symphony No 60, *Il distratto*, and Saint-Saëns's Organ Symphony (soloist George McPhee). The RSNO's principal flautist John Grant plays Nielsen's Flute Concerto. The conductor is Kees Bakels.
Caird Hall (01382 434940). Tonight, 7.30pm. *Then* **Glasgow**, *Royal Concert Hall* (0141-227 5511), tomorrow. **Edinburgh**, Usher Hall (0131-228 1155), Friday.

LIVERPOOL: Alexander Lazarev conducts the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra** in Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto and Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony. The soloist is Christian Tetzlaff.
Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street (0151-709 3789). Tonight, 7.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Modern Art in Britain 1910-1914 (0171-638 4141) . . **Delfina**: Eric Bainbridge (0171-357 6600) . . . **Glass Art**: Twenty-One Today: A celebration in glass (0171-403 2800) . . . **Llewellyn Alexander**: A Million Brushstrokes (0171-620 1322) . . **National**: Discovering the Italian Baroque: The Denis Mahon Collection (0171-747 2885) . . **October**: Julieta Rubio and *Charles Beauchamp* (0171-242 7367) **Redfern**: Spring Exhibition 1997: Modern and Contemporary Prints and Ceramics by Picasso (0171-734 1732) **Royal Academy**: Contemporary Satirists (0171-439 7438) . . **Tate**: Lovis Corinth (0171-887 8000) . . . **Theo Waddington**: Ann Dowker (0171-494 1584) . . . **Whitechapel**: Antechamber (0171-522 7888)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
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■ **ART**: David Haig, Anton Lesser, Mark Williams in this exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white painting.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

☐ **BIRDY**: *Northern Exposure* actor Rob Morrow joins Kevin Knight's cast in Naomi Wallace's fascinating version of the William Wharton novel: a psychologically damaged GI (Matthew Wait) believes he is a bird. Or does he?
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Until April 19.

◪ **THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE**: The Olivier is transformed into a "theatre in the round" for Simon McBurney's production of Brecht's last important work. Juliet Stevenson plays Grusha, with McBurney as the ingenious judge, Azdak.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Now previewing. 7.15pm; mat Sat, 2pm. Opens April 21, 7pm. Then in rep.

☐ **CIGARETTES AND CHOCOLATE**: An affair, a pregnancy, Bach and a bag lady feature in this stage version of the radio play by Anthony Minghella.
Man in the Moon, 392 King's Road, SW3 (0171-351 2876). Tue-Sun, 8pm. Until April 27.

☐ **HALLOWEEN NIGHT**: Rough Magic Company from Ireland brings the *Four Corners* season to a close with Lynne Parker's production of Declan Hughes's play: in a holiday cottage four uneasy couples wait for their host to appear. Supernatural events ensue.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm; *mat Sat, 4pm. Until April 19.*

☐ **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OSCAR**: Micheál MacLiammóir's celebrated tribute to Wilde: movingly revived by Simon Callow, conveying the wit, the gravity, the distress.
Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Until May 10.

☐ **LANGUAGE ROULETTE**: Daragh Carville's fast-talking play set in a Belfast pub on a pound-a-pint night where jollity turns to dangerous truth-telling. Tim Loane directs the Tinderbox Theatre production, slightly recast from last year's successful premiere.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388). *Mon-Sat, 8pm.*

☐ **THE POWER OF DARKNESS**: *Tolstoy's searing drama of adultery,* murder and redemption in a Russian peasant household, translated by Anthony Clark. Sean Holmes directs.
Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (0181-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs (April 17, 24, May 1), 2.30pm, Sat (from April 19), 4pm. Until May 31.

☐ **THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES**: Peter Bowles both touching and comic as Molière's deluded hero. Eric Sykes excellent as his flicker-fingered servant. Peter Hall directs.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, and Sat, 5pm.

70 HILL LANE: Return visit of Phelim *McDermott's fascinating re-creation of* the time his childhood home was occupied by a poltergeist; using two helpers and rolls and rolls of Sellotape.
Lyric Studio, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm.

LONG RUNNERS

◪ **An Inspector Calls**: Garrick (0171-*494 5085*) . . ◪ **Jesus Christ Superstar**: Lyceum (0171-656 1807) ☐ **Martin Guerre**: Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) . . ◪ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) ◪ **Miss Saigon**: *Drury Lane (0171-494 5400)* . . ☐ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) . . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400)

Ticket information supplied by Society *of London Theatre.*

NEW RELEASES

BITS AND PIECES (15): Dawn to dusk in Rome: a fascinating tapestry of modern life from director Antonello Grimaldi.
ABC Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470) **Everyman** (0171-435 1525)

CITIZEN KANE (U): Orson Welles's enthralling examination of the American dream, first released in 1941.
ABC Panton Street (0171-930 0631)

◆ **THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK** (U): Minor technical improvements, otherwise the same *Star Wars* sequel as before. With Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Mark *Hamill*. Director, *Irvin Kershner*.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Tottenham Crt Rd** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Leicester Square** (0181-315 4215) ***Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216)* **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

MANDELA (PG): *Reverential* documentary about Nelson Mandela.
Gate Ⓢ (0171-727 4043) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

◆ **THE PEOPLE VS LARRY FLYNT** (18): Rollercoaster ride through the life and court cases of the millionaire pornographer, played by Woody Harrelson. Director, Milos Forman.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

***TOTAL ECLIPSE** (18). Tortured lives* of poets Rimbaud and Verlaine. Unedifying version of Christopher Hampton's play, with Leonardo DiCaprio and David Thewlis.
***ABC Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561)*

TWIN TOWN (18): Crime and revenge in Swansea. Rough, rude and cruel comedy from TV actor Kevin Allen.
Gate (0171-727 4043) **Plaza** (0990 888990) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on the Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

◆ **THE ENGLISH PATIENT** (15): Map-making Ralph Fiennes smoulders with passion for Kristin Scott Thomas. Epic, *intelligent, though not quite worth all the* praise. Director, Anthony Minghella.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** (0990-888 990) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen on the Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner** (0171-437 4343) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ ***FEVER PITCH** (15): Football-crazed* teacher falls in love. Appealing version of Nick Hornby's book, with Colin Firth.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 *4214*) ***Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216)* **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

A SELF-MADE HERO (15): Jacques Audiard's captivating film about a bogus Resistance hero in the Second World War, with Matthieu Kassovitz.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Rio** (0171-254 6677)

VISUAL ART: Flemish and Dutch masters of the 20th century; architects in sound at RIBA

A welcome light on the ignored

When the Royal Academy was engaged in its gargantuan nation-by-nation surveys of 20th-century art between 1985 and 1993, one of the nations that got left out was The Netherlands. One might, of course, argue that, compared with that of Germany, Italy, Britain and America, the art of the Low Countries in the 20th century has been marginal. But mention the names of Van Gogh, Mondrian and Magritte, along with the whole De Stijl and Cobra *movements, and second* thoughts are in order.

> ‘Many of these artists will come as a revelation’

Such, at any rate, seems to be the inspiration of the large *show of Flemish and* Dutch Painting in the 20th Century at the Palazzo Grassi, Fiat's cultural flagship in Venice, throughout the spring and early summer. It has been curated by two former directors of Kassel's periodic, ultra-contemporary jamboree, Documenta, one Dutch and one Flemish: Rudi Fuchs is director of the Stedlijk Museum in Amsterdam, *and Jan Hoet of the Museum* van Hedendaagse Kunst in Ghent. The combination is significant, declaring not only the exhibition's basic sympathy *with the ultra-modern, but also the* strength of the movement on both sides of the border to cultural integration between the Dutch and the Belgian Flemish, linked by a common language and by constant artistic interchange throughout the century.

Certainly Dutch and Flemish art make more sense if considered together, especially at the onset of modernism. (Much the same is true, for the *same reasons, of early modern art in* America and Canada.) There is so much of interest, in fact, that even such a large exhibition, occupying the whole of the *Palazzo Grassi, seems in places* cramped, and gives rise to sharp questioning of who is included and who is not. In particular, Mondrian's *close early associates Jan Sluijters and* Leo Gestel seem done down, with just one Sluijters (a dazzling *Bal Tabarin* of 1907) and no Gestel at all.

But Fuchs has an answer ready: the problem with the RA shows, he thinks, was that they were determined to show how uniform the modern movement across Europe was, at the expense of the brilliantly eccentric and the idiosyncratically national. With this show he has tended the other way, to the *extent of playing down* those artists who seem too all-of-a-piece with what was going on in Paris. Rather, the curators have chosen to build up the strange, wilfully awkward "Flemish Expressionism" of painters such as Constant Permeke and Gustave De Smet, or the unsparing Neue Sachlichkeit of Charley Toorop, daughter of the Art Nouveau artist Jan Toorop. Many of these artists will come as a revelation to visitors from outside Holland and Belgium.

The programme thus declared is *carried forward and back. Forward to* contemporary artists such as Pyke Koch, Jan Dibbets and Marlene Dumas, whose various kinds of realism are placed clearly in a local context, and back to the Brueghels, Patinir and the geometrically obsessed painter of churches Saenredam, who are made to look like (and possibly are) direct ancestors of Ensor, Mondrian, Permeke and Dibbets. And then there *is Van Gogh who, although he died in* 1890, clearly played a seminal role in all that subsequently happened in the art of the Low Countries.

In the family: *Three Generations*, by Charley Toorop, unsparing advocate of Neue Sachlichkeit and daughter of Jan Toorop

If there is little conceptual art such as one might expect to encounter at a typical Documenta, it is obviously not because the curators reject it, but because they do not feel that, with the exception of Broodthaers, already a *modern classic,* it fits in very well with the national tradition they are seeking to define. The definition is in fact successfully achieved, and if there is maybe a little cheating around the edges, at least it is in favour of the intriguing byway rather than the over-familiar main road to Modernism.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

● Flemish and Dutch Painting in the 20th Century *is at the Palazzo Grassi, Venice (41-52.31.680) until July 13*

Building castles in the airs

If you were thinking of enjoying a quiet cappuccino at the modish Patisserie Valerie in the Royal Institute of British Architects building in Portland Place, then — until May 3 at least — you can think again. As you enter the noble foyer, a host of ghoulishly empty swivelling *chairs will all but impede* your progress. As you ascend the elegant double staircase to the gallery, a wraith of invisible sound may well cross your path. And just when you think you have made it safely up to the top and the *tartes tatins*, a vast hot-air balloon may well descend through the atrium, as a slow-moving cloud of sound fills the space and expands to bursting point.

If architecture really is frozen music, then the thaw has *begun. It is installation time* at the Royal Institute, and composer Diana Burrell (of the splendid Viola Concerto and massive *Symphony of Flocks, Herds and Shoals*) has risen to the challenge. Ten years ago, she rashly declared on radio that she would like to be an architect. Pierre d'Avoine telephoned her and proposed a project together. Inspired by the beautifully proportioned 1930s RIBA building, they have sought, *with architect and designer* Janek Schaeffer, to counterpoint the potential of physical space and space in time.

One relates to the other in the full glory of — you have guessed it — the random happening. You may walk in and find nothing is taking place at all. You may, on the other hand, hear any one of three 20-minute-long, exquisitely textured vocal chords radiating out into space. And if you are really lucky, you *may hear some real live* musicians improvising with it — or against it. If they feel moved. Compared with the robust energy and hyperactivity of Burrell's more conventional writing, this is near comatose. Burrell relishes the paradoxes inherent in it all: there are seats, but you cannot sit on them; sounds, but you may not hear them; musicians play, but there may be no audience. Or, of course, vice versa. On four specific evenings you are guaranteed some action, but for this you must pay a fiver. And on May 1 there is an election night *special. More hot air?*

HILARY FINCH

● TRAP *is at the RIBA Architecture Centre, 66 Portland Place, London W1N 4AD until May 3. Admission free. Special performances on April 18, 23 28 and May 1. Tickets £5 from 0171-631 0460*

ART GALLERIES

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■ THEATRE 1

With stunning performances from Gambon and McCowen, *Tom and Clem* proves to be a winner

■ THEATRE 2

Saki transfers to the stage with only mixed success in *Super-Beasts* at Jermyn Street

THE TIMES ARTS

■ THEATRE 3

... and Tolstoy does not fare much better in *The Power of Darkness* at the Orange Tree

■ RISING STAR

At 27 Robert Innes-Hopkins is fast becoming everybody's favourite theatre designer

THEATRE: Driberg and Attlee combine for a timely lesson on integrity. Plus morality soft and hard on London's Fringe

Socialists win by a landslide

Tom and Clem
Aldwych

The maverick Labour MP Tom Driberg did pay a brief visit to Potsdam in 1945 and, as his memoirs record, did cause "an incredulously derisive stir" there. Sadly, that was not because he emerged from groping a young Soviet interpreter beneath a table, only to find the recently elected British Prime Minister staring in disbelief at him. It was simply because he suggested, while the last votes were being counted back in Britain, that Churchill's portrait beside Stalin and Truman be replaced with one of Clement Attlee.

But Stephen Churchett is an arresting enough dramatist to be allowed to take the odd liberty in what is, amazingly, his first play. Tom Stoppard, with whom he has a little in common, felt liberated by the coincidental presence of Joyce, Tristan Tzara and Lenin in the Zurich of 1917 to bring all three into *Travesties* for a debate about the value of art. Why should Churchett not dream up unlikely encounters between Driberg and Attlee when the result is so entertaining and timely a discussion about the claims of idealism and compromise?

Moreover, nobody would want to miss the performances at the centre of Richard Wilson's fine production. Michael Gambon is Driberg, a slovenly, paunchy Bacchus with a mouth that can suddenly gape like a painfully hooked fish, and a big, raddled face that tenses and blenches when he recalls the bodies he has seen at Buchenwald. Alec McCowen is an Attlee who seems a little comic when he primly corrects his new MP for using foul language such as "bloody", or settles down to a crossword "to keep the old brainbox ticking over", yet exudes homespun decency and unpretentious generosity of spirit.

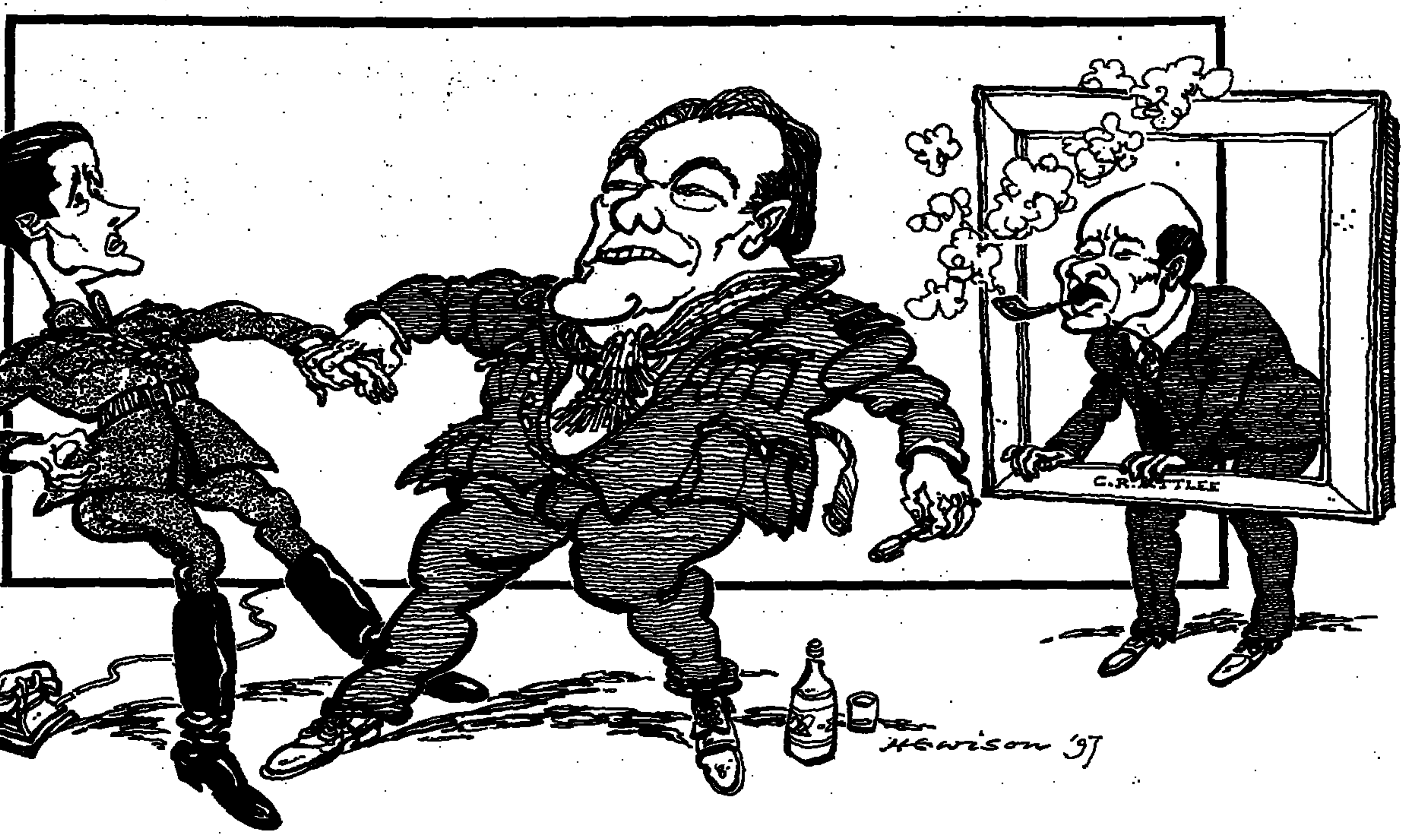
In so far as there is a plot, it is a bit absurd. Would a would-be Soviet traitor, about to be posted to London, really talk about defection to the former communist Driberg, of all people, under Stalin's nose in Potsdam, of all places? But that turns out to be a relatively minor strand in Churchett's dramatic tapestry. The fate that eventually overtakes Daniel de la Falaise's Alexei turns out to be just one example of what Attlee praises as "thinking of the greater good", and Driberg derides as "compromise, fudge, betrayal".

This is, after all, July 1945. The bombing of Hiroshima, the dividing-up of Europe and socialism in Britain are all on the agenda. It is a chance for Driberg to flaunt the revolutionary zeal that oddly coexists with his high-church Anglicanism, dedication to fellatio and nostalgia for the Savoy Grill. The very slant of Attlee's pipe, not to mention his commonsensical mind and fondness for rice pudding, proclaims his disagreement. What matters to him is finding practical ways of building a world for the starving slum kid and for the retired teacher "who can't manage on her pension".

I must say that, given the easy smiles and trim sound-bites currently assailing us, Attlee's no-frills manner and gritty dedication to one-nation politics left me wishing he was standing in my constituency on May 1. But the strength of Churchett's play, especially when it launches into Shavian-style debate towards the end, is that it gives a fair hearing both to that and to Driberg's flamboyant romanticism. The Tories come out less well, which seemed fine by the first-night audience.

Some of us could have done with fewer double-entendres, but most people laughed a lot, especially at the confusion caused the translators when an offstage Ernie Bevin offers the Soviets "a bunch of fives", or tells Molotov he "doesn't give a monkey's". But I have to report that laughter turned to applause at the lines "if we've got to have Tories they should at least be gentlemen", and "the Tories haven't delivered the goods after all the years they've had to do so". A sign of the times or unrepresentative bravado? We'll know soon.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Daniel de la Falaise (Alexei), Michael Gambon (Tom Driberg) and Alec McCowen (Clement Attlee) in Stephen Churchett's excellent debut as a playwright. *Tom and Clem*

Saki with sugar

Super-Beasts
Jermyn Street

HECTOR Hugh Munro, political journalist, war correspondent and wit, signed his work "Saki" after the Persian handmaiden who turns down the empty glass at the end of the *Rubaiyat*. This is a pretty odd choice, and if the name has stuck so fast, this could be because the echo with "sarcasm" feels so apt.

The casually witty young idlers in his stories, the tart duchesses and discomfited bores, inhabit the ripe Edwardian world of clubland and house-parties, exotically spiced with trips to the Balkans. Dictionaries of quotations rightly devote columns to his wise, or at least perfectly phrased, observations on life, society and pretension.

But this is not to say that a succession of his tales and sketches is going to work well on the stage. Ninety minutes of them, including interval, is like a feast of canapés. His style is not invariably smart. He can write of pain and grief but this show avoids these.

Even the well-known revenge tales, *Sredni Vashtar* and *The Lumber Room*, are silently sweetened, and nothing is allowed to intrude upon the even Edwardian summer until *Birds on the Western Front*, possibly the last piece he wrote before a sniper's bullet got him. Here at long last the show offers a meat course, where Moray Watson describes battered larks and well-fed owls with bitter irony in a voice choked with tears.

Timothy Ackroyd, nice-looking and light-voiced, catches the laid-back candour of Clovis: Helen Lindsay and Jackie Smith-Wood share the female roles between them, the steel-eyed matrons and the slinky wives. Some of the stories have been turned into playlets but not especially well, and curious omissions damage the attempts at a bit of song 'n' dance. The only detail I remembered from *The Secret Sin of Septimus Brope* is the unusual last line of one of his music-hall songs — "I'll throw you down a quarry, Florrie, if I marry you". A softer phrase is substituted, while *Cousin Teresa* is ignored. The procession of pet dogs in this could have added energy to a show, directed by Dee Hart, that generally lacks it. But perhaps I am trying to redirect the show, and I must break the habit.

JEREMY KINGSTON

The wages of sin

The Power of Darkness
Orange Tree Theatre

TOLSTOY'S extreme morality play was banned for nine years after he wrote it in 1886, despite its unmissable message that when it comes to sin, "once the claw is caught, the bird is lost". Sean Holmes's production does much to animate this proselytising piece but ultimately the author's simplistic message overwhelms his playwriting skills.

One sin — in this case adultery — is shown to lead to an orgy of godlessness, including the poisoning of a husband, incest and the murder of a newborn baby. Nikita, the farm labourer, is the epicentre of this spiral of evil, though in fairness he is little worse than a cocky seducer until the women take over the plot.

Anisya is trapped in an unhappy marriage with the grumbling invalid Piotr Ignatych. She longs for his death, when she will be free to take over the farm and marry Nikita. The news that Nikita is going to be married off therefore throws her into near despair. But Nikita's mother, Matriona (excellent Collette O'Neil), has seen the advantage of her son marrying a rich widow. She teams up with Anisya, even offering her special powders to hurry Piotr towards the grave.

Although Nikita's father, Akim, argues for Nikita to do right by a poor pregnant orphan girl, we root for Anisya. Katrina Levon plays her with a febrile intensity easily manipulated by Matriona and the insincere charms of her son. Dermot Kerrigan gives an initially dazzling performance as the shifty-eyed charmer who has never had to show much consideration to get his way.

Cut to after the marriage, however, and Tolstoy's power to surprise us wanes. Such a caricature of moral degeneration is painted that the actors have little to work from and the performances just become duller and louder. Thank goodness for Nicky Shaw's beautiful set and costumes, which recreate 19th-century rural Russian life in fascinating and picturesque detail.

CLARE BAYLEY

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THE TIMES
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Latest challenge: He has transformed the auditorium at the West Yorkshire Playhouse into a small Scottish island for the stage version of Iain Banks's cult novel, *The Wasp Factory*, which runs from Friday to May 17. "This is the most technically involved show I've worked on. There are 55 flying cues and we're using dozens of television monitors suspended above the audience to display elements that we just cannot put on stage."

Accidental vocation: His father, Colin, is the lighting designer for *Blind Date*, but Robert never intended to take a similar career route. "I just kind of stumbled into designing fringe productions when I was on a fine-art course in Bath."

Apprenticeship: While studying design at Nottingham Polytechnic, he interviewed Richard Hudson, the leading theatre and opera designer. "I ended up as his assistant for the next two years, working at the RSC and Covent Garden. It taught me that design is often about knowing when and how to compromise."

Personal sideline: As a founder member of the Primitive Science performance group, he designed a live version of Kafka's short story *The Hunger Artist*, which caught the eye of *Comedy of Errors* director Tim Supple. "Primitive Science is really important to me. We're hoping to move away from theatre with a music-based installation at a London gallery in the autumn."

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DANIEL ROSENTHAL

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This is a new position working to the General Manager of the Trust providing a challenging opportunity to develop our information systems. The newly established local area network requires an experienced administrator to provide a range of support to senior staff.

DO YOU HAVE

The ability to administer a Windows based computer network?
Advanced skills in Word for Windows, and Excel, and the ability to use e-mail; presentation graphics and database applications?
Good oral and written communication skills and the ability to manage and prioritise workload?
The ability to draft correspondence and reports and document templates?
The ability to exercise discretion and initiative?

WE ARE LOOKING FOR

A qualified secretary with at least two years experience of responsibility for administration in an IT context.
Aston is an Equal Opportunities Employer
Completed application forms must be received by 5pm on 14 May 1997.

For application form and further details write to:
Jenny Rogers, Aston Charities Trust Ltd,
Earlham Grove, London E7 9AB.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Required for Lady Elizabeth Anson at Party Planners. You will need to be extremely effecient and organised; flexible; patient and used to working under pressure. A smart appearance and good telephone manner are important. Secretarial skills of 100/60 sh and word for windows. Clean driving licence. Immediate start. Please apply in writing to: Nicola Goodwin, 56 Ladbroke Grove, london W11 2PB.

No Agencies

PA/SECRETARY, ST JAMES'S

The founder of a prestigious antiques gallery in London St. James's, seeks the "perfect" PA/Secretary. A wonderful position for the right person. As you will be meeting important influential clients, a good dress sense and good speaking voice are essential. You will posses good secretarial skills, shorthand/speed writing, and be proficient with Microsoft packages.
Aged between 25-40, non-smoker.
Salary circa £18,000 + benefits.
Please apply in writing together with CV:
The Managing Director, Trevor Philip & Sons,
75a Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6NP.

05.1.97/IT 4C.

هكذا من الأصل

Tel: 0171 680 6806 **La Crème de la Crème** Fax: 0171 782 7586

ROOM AT THE TOP

Household Name £28,000 Package

The Managing Director of this well-known Company is seeking a PA with the maturity and experience to efficiently run his office and contribute to the overall business strategy.

This pressurised role requires someone with the confidence and intelligence to represent him in his absence, monitor and follow up issues and liaise with his reporting team.

Key attributes will be your highly flexible, adaptable and friendly nature; your ability to work on your own initiative and prioritise a demanding workload. A good sense of humour and experience in the medical sector would be an advantage. 100 wpm shorthand and 60 wpm typing are essential.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applicants are positively welcomed.

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

Christopher Keats

PR ASSISTANT
£13,500

Leading communications group with sponsorship, event management, design and PR divisions has excellent opening for someone wishing to enter the world of PR. Duties are varied and will include distributing press releases, assisting with the organisation of events, liaising with clients and journalists and carrying out research. Proven 'springboard' into PR if you are prepared to continue using your secretarial and administration skills for the next eighteen months.

0171 734 3133
email: recruitment@keats.co.uk
visit our web site on: www.christopherkeats.co.uk
10 years of recruiting secretaries in media

Christopher Keats

£16,000
The Next Step...

You've solidified your secretarial training with six months plus experience and are now looking for the role you trained and planned for. Our clients within the worlds of

ADVERTISING, TV, RADIO, PR, DESIGN, MARKETING, MAGAZINES & BOOKS

represent the media world – challenging, quirky, individual and, above all, progressive – make sure, with your next step, you are part of all this.

With over ten year's experience and a media client list which is about as blue chip as they come we will make your next move painless, rewarding and fun!

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email: recruitment@keats.co.uk
visit our web site on: www.christopherkeats.co.uk
10 years of recruiting secretaries in media

Christopher Keats

HIGH PROFILE TV CAMPAIGNS
£16,000

Top 10 Advertising Agency with very impressive client list is seeking switched on secretary to provide support to busy group who manage the pan-European campaigns for one of the world's best loved high street names. The role will utilise all your co-ordination skills as you ensure that their TV campaigns, regular instore promotions and events go according to plan. Staff progression is a very real policy at this award winning agency. Good secretarial skills together with PowerPoint knowledge essential.

0171 734 3133
email: recruitment@keats.co.uk
visit our web site on: www.christopherkeats.co.uk
10 years of recruiting secretaries in media

HOBSTONES

Vote Hobstones for

Benefits ☒ Prospects ☒ £££££££'s ☒ Job Satisfaction ☒

Perm

Sales Assistant c£20,000
Working with a team of brokers, this position offers opportunities to progress. 1 year city exp plus W4W, Excel and keyboard skills.

Graduate Banking Sec £18-20,000
Excellent prospects for a graduate with 2:1 Finance related degree with 50wpm, Word, Excel aged mid to late 20's.

Junior Secretaries £14-15,000
IT & Banking recruitment agencies require outgoing admin/secs to support teams of consultants. They offer excellent training and opportunities. Sec quals plus one year city experience.

Marketing Team Sec £14,000
Learn to use Powerpoint to produce presentations for this young marketing team. Maths and English C+, 45 wpm and desire to learn.

Moneybrokers Secretary £15-20,000
Organise all the hospitality, travel and currency arrangements for this manic team of brokers. Fast typing, bags of energy, a radiant smile and quick approach.

Job Share Secretary pro rata £18,000
Multi-national based in EC4 need a secretary with WP4W, Freelance, and a flexible approach to provide shared support in their Market Research area.

Office Administrator £15,000 + Bens
Young bright person needed to assist a busy securities firm. Variety and responsibility guaranteed. 40wpm, W4W, plenty of initiative and a willing attitude ess.

Equities Team Sec £14,000
Young energetic secretary to assist the Equities team in a US Stockbrokers. Database research, typing, updating web pages and more. 45wpm with W4W.

For an interview please call Sara, Nicky or Helena.

City 0171 550 7000

Temp

Temps Get The Vote!
To £10 per hour.

As the Campaigning heats up, don't be slow to join the leading party and be a winner this Summer. We offer top rates, an efficient and friendly service, together with exciting and busy bookings in top companies around central London.

If you meet the checklist below, call us now!

50 wpm typing ☒
Good Windows exp. ☒
Flexibility ☒
Professional attitude ☒
Smart presentation ☒

Gillian or Victoria

City 0171 550 7000.

Stop Press!

New perm positions just in...

Fixed Income Admin - £20 - 23,000
Run the admin systems and support projects for this successful US Bank nr L'pl Street. Confident, outgoing personality MS Office and ideally investment banking experience.

Bond Team Secretary £18,500 +
Trade admin for the bond team and sec support for the Directors.

RECRUITMENT

Legal

Legal Temps!
Up to £12.00 per hour!

Due to an increase in demand from our clients, we are looking for legal secretaries with a minimum of 2 years experience in any area of law.
60 wpm essential and a flexible attitude required. We offer:

- Immediate short & long term assignments
- Bookings all over London
- In-house training facilities
- Pay direct into your bank account
- Over-time paid at time and a half

Please call Lisa Bloomfield.

Calling all conveyancing secretaries! Central London up to £24,000.

Many of our top legal firms are crying out for commercial conveyancing secretaries. We have many junior to senior level positions available. If you have a minimum of 6 months experience, and 65 wpm typing, your expertise will be rewarded!

For further information please call Angela d'Agostino or Kim Harris.

City 0171 550 7000

SOLICITORS
near Green Park

COMPANY COMMERCIAL

As a result of continuing expansion we require two experienced secretaries to Partners in this busy department.

Generous salary package dependent upon age and experience but to include PRP, LVs's, STL, 4 weeks annual leave and loyalty bonus.

It is unlikely that anyone under the age of twenty five will have the required experience and maturity for these very demanding positions. Experience of WordPerfect V6 is essential.

Handwritten applications, marking the envelope private and confidential, accompanied by your CV should be addressed to G C Smith, Practice Manager, Palmer Cowen, 16 Berkeley Street, London, W1X 5AE.

STRICTLY NO AGENCIES OR TELEPHONED ENQUIRIES

WORK IN BANKING!

Just a small selection of our current list of exciting openings!

PA/Research Assistant	to £30,000
Equity Research Secretary	to £25,000
Trading Floor Secretary	to £20,000
Swaps Secretary	to £18,000
Private Banking Jnr Secretary	to £15,000

Please contact Melinda Marks, Margaret Sorohan or Jane Edwards.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd.,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 5259

TEMPORARIES!

Do you have a finance or professional background!

Jonathan Wren is the recommended supplier to The City Personnel Group which has a membership of over 300 banks in London.

We need good calibre PA/Secretaries for a range of assignments in the City, Docklands and West End.

Shouldn't you be earning £10.00 - £11.00 phr?

Please contact Dezna Berry.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd.,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 5259

OSBORNE & LITTLE

Secretary/PA to Sales Director & Marketing Manager

Secretary/PA to the Export Managers
(Fluent French essential)

Salary range £14,500 - £18,000 depending on qualifications. Additional foreign languages and Word Pro experience preferred. *Lunch facilities provided.*

Please apply with CV & details of current salary to:
The Sales Director, Osborne & Little
49 Temperley Road, London SW12 8QE

SECRETARY
c.£16,000

Savile Row tailors require mature secretary to work in small busy office. The successful applicant is likely to be over 40 and experienced in Word Perfect for Windows. Applicants must be available for immediate employment.

Please apply with full C.V. to:-
G.Scotton Esq.
H.Huntsman & Sons Ltd.
11 Savile Row
London W1X 2PS

ADMIN/ RECEPTION C£14,000.

Charm and efficiency to meet and greet and be linchpin of friendly, busy West End office of Recruitment Consultancy. Good WP skills ess. Prospects for right person.

Contact Caroline West
on 0171 287 2044
fax 0171 287 3717

MIDDLETON JEFFERS
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

PERMS **- ELECTION FREE ZONE -** **TEMPS**

Want a Major Move?

- **PA (Mktg Dept)** Leisure Co – £22k+
- **PA (no Sh)** – EC4 – Private Bank – £21k
- **Secretary** – Luxurious Surroundings – £20k
- **PA to Director** – City – £20k
- **Director's PA** – Headhunters – £19k
- **PA/Office Manager** – West End (Age 25/30) – £19k
- **Sales & Mktg Sec** – WC1 – £16k
- **Audio Typist** – Property & Accountants – W1 – £16k
- **Secretary** – Knightsbridge Investment Co – £16k
- **Admin Secretary** – Exhibitions – £15.5k
- **Receptionist** – West End Recruitment – £15k
- **2nd Jobber Secretary** – Top City Co – £14k

. . . or Prefer Immediate Labour?

Why sit at home waiting for your agency to call when you could be working for one of our prestigious City or West End clients and earn SERIOUS MONEY? Here is just a taster of current assignments we are looking to fill.

IMMEDIATE SHORTHAND ASSIGNMENTS (min 90 wpm)
- Director's Secretary – Insurance – 1 month
- Team Secretary – Marketing – 6 months
- Secretary/WP Trainer – Recruitment – Temp to Perm

IMMEDIATE AUDIO ASSIGNMENTS (min 50 wpm)
- Senior Team Secretary – Investment – 6 months
- Receptionist/Secretary – Consultancy – Temp to Perm
- P/T Receptionist/Telephonist – Top Plc – 9 months

If you have excellent secretarial skills, a good working knowledge of Windows packages and are aged 20-40, call our Temporary Division NOW!

PAN EUROPEAN RECRUITMENT TEL: 0171 734 8484 FAX: 0171 734 8501

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
to the Director of the Natural History Museum
salary range £16,483 - £26,785 p.a.

The Natural History Museum is a leader in furthering the understanding of the natural world using its unrivalled collections, world class exhibitions, innovative education programmes and scientific research.

The role of Personal Assistant to the Director calls for a high level of secretarial service provision including correspondence, diary and travel management, arranging briefings for all appointments, minuting senior management committees, supervising the Assistant Personal Secretary, the organisation of VIP visits to the Museum and basic research.

Candidates will need to demonstrate strong organisational skills, a mature and lively personality, a flexible, confidential approach to work and confidence in dealing with people at a very senior level. Shorthand and excellent keyboard skills (Word for Windows and Excel) are essential.

If you would like to be considered for this demanding position, please send an A5 SAE to:
Pauline Mohabir, Personnel Section,
The Natural History Museum,
Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.

Applications by CV and covering letter should reach us by 28 April 1997.

The Natural History Museum is working towards Equal Opportunities.

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

FILM/MEDIA
£16,000

Film production company need experienced sec. who's bright and energetic to run their busy office. If you're a brilliant organiser who thrives under pressure with 50wpm typing, *then call*

JUDY FISHER
ASSOCIATES
0171-437 2277
Recruitment Consultants

PURELY ADMIN WC1 £12.5K

A small friendl[illegible] surveyors [illegible] a sma[illegible] organised [illegible] for this fairly repe[illegible]. Would suit 2nd jo[illegible].

Call

EXECUTIVE EXTRA (Rec Cons)

0171 240 9890

Executive Secretary

Northern Home Counties/South Midlands
Circa £25k + benefits + relocation

Our client is a privately-owned Company operating in various sectors with a group turnover of £130 million.

They are looking for a high calibre Secretary who can operate effectively in an entrepreneurial family environment, bringing common sense and excellent organisational skills.

A diversity of people and situations make great demands on the Chairman/owner, so you will need to become so attuned with his style and way of thinking that taking independent action and passing the right level of work to him will become second nature. As well as the usual administration/secretarial duties, this role has the added attraction of allowing wide-ranging involvement in all aspects of a fast-moving group business. A business qualification would therefore be an advantage.

If you are status-conscious and self-important – this is not the job for you!! Our client needs a professional who is enthusiastic and confident, but whose interpersonal and teamworking skills will ensure that colleagues both like and respect them.

If this sounds like the move you've been waiting for, we would like to hear from you.

Please send your CV with covering letter to Sandra Reid, TMP Worldwide, 6 Elm Court, Copse Drive, Meriden, Warwickshire CV5 9RG. Closing date for applications: 9 May 1997.

All applications will be forwarded to our client.

TMP Worldwide

SCIENCE | FUNDRAISING | EDUCATION
FIGHTING CANCER ON ALL FRONTS

Administrative Officer

[illegible] annum

[illegible] is a major UK charity and the European [illegible]ments for cancer. We are now seeking a well [illegible] person to provide first-class administrative support [illegible] Development team.
Your main [illegible] responsibility will lie in committee administration and key tasks will be to handle meeting arrangements, take and prepare minutes and maintain and develop committee databases. As well as this, you'll manage all the administration relating to Committee grants including budgets, correspondence and general enquiries.
You should be an experienced committee administrator with a record of organising and minuting large meetings. An effective team player with initiative and focus, you should be able to plan and manage several tasks at once and keep calm under pressure. Good communication and computer skills are essential and you must be able to meet deadlines.

For further information and an application pack contact: The Personnel Department, CRC, 10 Cambridge Terrace, Regents Park, London, NW1 4JL or call 0171 224 1333 between 10am & 4pm only. Closing date: 30 April 1997.

The Campaign is committed to becoming an equal opportunities employer and has a no smoking policy.
Registered Charity No. 225838

cancer research campaign

Executive Assistant

London EC1
Salary in the range of
£14,877 to £19,749 + pension

Two of our new Directors require an executive assistant.

These Directors look after fundraising, public relations, social policy, parliamentary lobbying, publications and a range of other services.

You will have good Microsoft office skills and be able to take the initiative, complete simple budget reports, research background materials, and undertake other projects. You will already have experience in this kind of role and you must be able to work quickly, efficiently and accurately to tight deadlines *with minimal supervision. You will* have outstanding interpersonal skills, a mature outlook and flexibility in approach to both the post and the hours worked as agreed with the Directors.

For an application form and further details, contact Human Resources, RNID, 19-23 Featherstone Street, London EC1Y 8SL or *telephone 0171 296 8075* (24 hour answerphone). Minicom callers only use 0171 296 8001 Monday to Friday 9.00am- 5.00pm.

Closing date: 30th April 1997.
Interview date: Week commencing 5th May 1997.

RNID
THE ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEAF PEOPLE
QUALITY SERVICES FOR DEAF PEOPLE

NEWS LIMITED OF AUSTRALIA

SYNDICATIONS ASSISTANT

HOURS: MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9AM - 5.30 PM

SALARY: c£14,500

Interesting opportunity to work as part of a small team in the *London Bureau of News Limited of Australia*, part of the News Corporation

Extremely varied duties involved to include:

secretarial assistance (Microsoft office, no shorthand)

respond to requests from Australia for pictures and features, researching source of material, negotiating fees

daily checking of newspapers for items of interest for Australian papers

general office assistance to other members of staff

Please apply in writing enclosing a CV to Brenda Hemmings, Personal Executive, News International Newspapers Limited, PO Box 481, Virginia Street, London E1 9BD

PA/ADMINISTRATOR

c.£18,000 *Shepherds Bush*

An ideal opportunity for a mature professional, looking for greater freedom and increasing responsibility, to join a small, up market UK based sales and marketing arm of a large Swedish company.

It's a key support role, involving a wide mix of administrative duties, including book-keeping, secretarial and general office tasks, requiring an experienced all rounder who's flexible, well organised and capable of independently manning the office.

To apply, please write with full CV to our consultants at: CPA, Capital House, 37 Boyne Avenue, Hendon, London NW4 2JL. Tel: 0181 203 1000. Fax: 0181 203 8020.

Secretary to Partner (EC1)
Competitive Salary and Benefits

Progressive firm of Chartered Accountants and Corporate Finance Advisers require a competent and responsible secretary (*non-smoker*) to participate in the administration and smooth running of this busy practice. Good telephone manner, organisational skills together with the ability to use initiative and work efficiently within a team. Knowledge of Lotus Ami Pro/Windows package preferable. Send covering letter and CV to:

The Staff Partner,
Kingswood
Kingswood House
No 1 Clerkenwell Green,
London, EC1R 0DE
Strictly No Agencies

KINGSWOOD

RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST

A successful and busy West End property firm is looking for a bright, helpful person with good presentation, excellent telephone manner and some WP skills for an interesting and varied postion dealing with high level clients and *assisting in the efficient running of the business* This is a demanding role which requires good organisational skills and a sense of humour.

Apply in writing with CV to:-
Mrs Laura Sharpe-Neal
Rogers Chapman
34 Sackville Street
London W1X 1DB
Fax: 0171 439 1653

Marriott
HOTELS RESORTS SUITES

Marriott International, a worldwide hotel company, are looking for an experienced secretary to work with their

Regional Director of Operations and Regional Financial Controller

We are seeking a self-motivated person who is used to working in a challenging international environment.

Salary c.20,000

Send cv. to: Human Resources, Marriott International, *Bowater House East, 7th Floor, 68 Knightsbridge,* London, SW1X 7XH.

Do you think...

[illegible]

The Principals Group

We are a dynamic design consultancy currently looking for a Rec/Jnr Sec. This is a young and friendly, but hardworking environment. The ideal candidate will be reliable, confident, able to cope under pressure and still have a sense of humour. Must have at least 1 yrs experience.

Please send CV and covering letter to:
Georgina Tyrrell,
The Principals Group,
19 Phipp Street, London EC2A 4NP.

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Secretary/PA

PR Consultant with varied clients (high tech to leisure), requires experienced Secretary/PA with Apple Mac/Microsoft Word, book-keeping and PR Agency skills. Accuracy and speed vital, initiative and good presentation essential. Salary £15,000. Fax or send CV to: WSM Wordsworth Limited, 23/24 Margaret Street, London W1N 7LB. Tel: 0171 636 2252 Fax: 0171 636 2292

PRESTIGE WEST END MUSIC AND FILM LAW FIRM

Require exceptional full time (9.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.) receptionist. Initiative and outward going personality essential. You will be responsible for answering the switchboard and greeting clients as well as using your administration skills, keyboard skills are required.

Apply in writing with C.V. and recent photograph to Nigel Parker Greengarden House, 15-22 St Christopher's Place, W1M 5HE.

SECRETARY - MAYFAIR

International Management Consultancy

Educated, organised, experienced secretary to work with Directors and small support team.
Excellent WP and telephone skills. Mix of routine documentation and interesting projects.

Good competitive salary.

Please call Clare on 0171 434 2551
or fax CV's on 0171 439 0222.

Tel: 0171 680 6806

La Crème de la Crème

Fax: 0171 782 7586

Marketing

Investment Banking
to £18,000

Rare opportunity to join this bank and support the marketing officer for Scandinavia and Switzerland. This is a1:1 role and will involve arranging business trips and creating a client database as well as secretarial support. You must be a methodical worker who is conscientious and adaptable. Skills 50wpm, Word for Windows, Excel and Powerpoint. Please call Katy Burke on 0171 390 7000.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Come and Join Us!

Team Secretary
to £16,000 + bens

Willing and enthusiastic second jobber required to support this lively team of recruitment consultants. Providing secretarial support at senior level you will type letters and reports, liaise with candidates and get involved with all areas of recruitment. With a year's experience you must have strong admin skills and good accuracy and spelling. Skills: 50wpm/WP. Age: 20-24. Please call Lucy Davies on 0171 390 7000.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Lap of Luxury

c£16,000+
Gym/Social Club

International high-profile leisure company are looking for a self-assured and positive secretary for their finance controller. Worldwide liaison. Solid secretarial background and experience with figures essential. A lively and polished personality of A'level calibre would be ideal in this friendly environment. Stunning offices overlooking the Thames between West End and City. 55wpm typing. Call Camilla Loughton to find out more on 0171 434 4512.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Property Investment

to £18,000 + Bens

Superb opportunity to totally organise 2 senior partners at this fun and sociable property consultancy situated near St. Pauls Cathedral. Based in open plan offices you will be responsible for updating aproperty database, liaising with clients and managing diaries. If you are confident, aged 24 -40 with 50wpm audio, windows, please call Samantha Garner 0171 390 7000.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Trading Floor

Age: 19-24
to £20,000 plus bens

Fantastic opportunity to join a dynamic and successful American Investment Bank as an assistant on this busy trading floor. Duties vary from analysing figures to organising lunches and meetings and you will be very front line, exposed to many senior people. To enjoy this position you will have excellent secretarial skills, a confident manner and lots of enthusiasm. Please call Claire Ashley on 0171 390 7000.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Recruitment Administrator

c£25,000 + bens

The Investment Banking division of this major bank has its own HR team dealing with everything from strategy to recruitment. As Administrator you will be responsible for temporary and permanent recruitment, day to day staffing issues, salary reviews and staff appraisals. You will be from a recruitment background and have strong analytical and IT skills. Previous financial experience preferred. Age to 35. Please call Amanda Chesson on 0171 390 7000.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Aussie Connection

£24,000

High profile international business development office in the West End requires PA/Office Manager for small VIP environment. Together with using your tip top PA skills, overseeing budgets and supervising staff, you will act as office lynchpin. Strong communication skills, initiative and a proactive nature are essential. If you have an in-depth knowledge of Australia, all of the above plus 55wpm typing and 80wpm shorthand please call Andrea Murrell on 0171 434 4512.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Go For It!

£16K
West End

Unusual opportunity for a bright and positive junior secretary to build upon their secretarial skills. Working in this high profile environment you will be expected to liaise at all levels and have the confidence to deal with the Press, VIPs and Politicians. Good understanding of etiquette, lots of initiative and able to cope within a busy office. Get on track, call Susanna Hargreaves on 0171 434 4512.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

JOSLIN ROWE
secretarial recruitment consultants

Team Secretary

c£16,000 + Bank Bens **City**

This is a superb opportunity for a second jobber with City experience to work in a large Merchant Bank for a team of fund Managers. Supporting a senior secretary and covering in her absence the successful candidate will get involved in a variety of duties to include of mix of secretarial and administration. Fast accurate typing speeds will be required for general correspondance, mail merging and producing mail shots. Strong organisational skills are essential for maintaining diaries and arranging UK travel. Systems knowledge of Word for Windows and Excel desirable and a minimum education at 'A' level required.

Joslin Rowe Associates Ltd
Bell Court House,
11 Bloomfield Street London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

JOSLIN ROWE
secretarial recruitment consultants

2ND Jobbers

c£15,000 + Bens **City/West End**

Enthusiastic and proactive secretaries with office experience and good skills (40 wpm typing, Word for Windows) are required by 2 companies in the City and West End. One role is based in the City working for a friendly managing agent specialising in insurance. Your duties will include audio & copy typing, reception cover and secretarial support on different projects throughout the year. The second position is for a management consultancy in Covent Garden. Secretarial and administrative duties will include new business processing, maintaining a library of product information, assisting in the collation of client reports and production of documents. Both positions offer excellent opportunities for involvement and the chance to improve your skills and widen your business knowledge.

Joslin Rowe Associates Ltd
Bell Court House,
11 Bloomfield Street London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

JOB WITH A DIFFERENCE!

£16K

Run the show. M.D travels to Europe. Suit grad. Sales marketing exp. Any Euro lang a plus but not ess. Attend/co-ordinate exhibitions. Int. co. project management involvement. Computer literate.

"PROBLEM SOLVER"

£14K

Good listener? Communicator? Int. Conference Organisor needs switched on bright graduates on customer services. Never a dull moment. Any Euro lang a plus but not ess. Computer literate.

CONCEPT INTERNATIONAL
appointments
162 - 168 Regent St, London W1R 5TB
Tel: 0171-306 3262 Fax: 0171-434 0700

OFFICE MANAGER/PA

£19K

Bored? In a rut? Crossroads of your career? Golden *opportunity to be your own boss.* M.D. travels to Europe. Run the show. Co-ordinate and attend exhibitions. Great boss. Good sense of humour. Any Euro lang a plus but not ess. Get away from that secretarial role. Computer literate.

CONCEPT INTERNATIONAL
appointments
162 - 168 Regent St, London W1R 5TB
Tel: 0171-306 3262 Fax: 0171-434 0700

"Project your personality" £15K

Young, busy luxurious offices. Suit 2nd jobber. Sec/administrator (50 wpm) to MD of leading PR consultancy. Meet VIP's. Lots of involvement. W4W.

CONCEPT INTERNATIONAL
appointments
162 - 168 Regent St, London W1R 5TB
Tel: 0171-306 3262 Fax: 0171-434 0700

DRAKE INTERNATIONAL
Temporary Vacancies

Based in Personnel - long term temp £8-10 p/h.
One of Europe's largest software houses is seeking an all round secretary with recruitment experience. You will be responsible for all first interviews. You must be organised and full of energy.

£7.50 p/h - Receptionist with style.
[illegible] booking in one of the most prestigious business [illegible] London. You will have a minimum of one [illegible] *This position will lead you on to further* exciting [illegible].

PA Secretary [illegible] 4-6 months.
You will [illegible] W4Ws, Excel and Power[illegible] for this high profile position [illegible] Vice Presidents PA.

Please call [illegible] on 0171 240 3380

DRAKE INTERNATIONAL
Permanent Vacancies

Social Secretary £16,000
Superbly social secretarial position available for 2nd jobber in the art world! W4W, 40 + wpm, and excellent organisational skills required. *Call Susan Marshall at 0171 495 2927*
Dazzling Jr. Dynamo £13,000
Step into the West End! Excellent opportunity for a first jobber in dynamic, social environment! Perfect "stepping stone" position for someone with 40 wpm typing and computer skills.
Call Susan Marshall at 0171 495 2927
[illegible] West End Receptionist £14,500
[illegible] long? Meeting new people? Front desk [illegible] cheerful individual *in stunning surroundings in* West End. [illegible] *of* experience required.
Call Susan [illegible] 0171 495 2927
[illegible] £22,000
[illegible] man you have ever worked [illegible] too. However, he is [illegible] needs an A level or graduate [illegible] with him!
[illegible]

HIGH energy people person WANTED

Secretary/Recruitment
£16,000

The company: Small, professional, fast-paced recruitment sector leader.

The role: Client/candidate care; secretarial support (CVs, marketing letters etc); masses of phone work.

The essentials: Vibrant personality; pro-active attitude; confident typing skills (45wpm+)

Is this you? Call 0171-494 4466 today, let's talk.

GORDON·YATES

PA /Admin manager +Spanish

to £25,000 – EC2

The company: New representative office of a leading South American financial institution.

The role: Providing PA support to Director as well as total involvement, as Office Manager, in all aspects of business start-up.

The essentials: Fluent Spanish; highly computer literate; proficient on Word, Powerpoint, Excel; confident admin/PA skills.

Please call 0171-494 4466 or fax 0171-494 4499.

GORDON·YATES

GET INTO fashion recruitment

£14,000

The company: Young, exciting consultancy specialising in search assignments for fashion and retail companies.

The role: Assisting the PA/Office Manager, and additionally, helping to keep close liaison with the MD's clients and candidates.

The essentials: Willingness to learn (present occupant being promoted, will train you); typing skills; good phone manner.

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GORDON·YATES

creative flair

1st/2nd Job – £14,500 +

The company: One of the world's most brilliant 'people business' companies in the world.

The role: To provide pro-active admin and creative document production to a dynamic, client-focused team.

The essentials: Good education (5+ GCSEs), accurate typing, graphics or DTP flair.

Call 0171-494 4466, let's talk.

GORDON·YATES

reception flair

£14,000

The company: Hectic, creative design company with a high powered, VIP list of professional business clients.

The role: Front desk 'secretary/receptionist', handling high level telephone contact, meeting high profile clients, providing admin/sec support.

The essentials: Well-educated with a calm, unflappable personality; some [illegible] experience.

Call 0171-494 4466, let's talk.

GORDON·YATES

A warm heart

£19,000 – PA + shorthand

The company: Head Office of a young, successful UK plc – set up in the last 10 years and now operating throughout the world.

The role: Secretary/PA, primarily to a divisional Chief Exec, within a close-knit, warm, 'family' HQ team.

The essentials: Shorthand/typing (80/50); professional manner; friendly, team oriented approach.

Please call 0171-494 4466 or fax 0171-494 4499.

GORDON·YATES

THE buzz OF THE trading floor

£19,000 + OT/benefits etc.

The company: Prestigious international commercial/investment bank. Superb West End offices and location.

The role: Providing dynamic, pro-active secretarial support to a young, friendly, highly focused executive team.

The essentials: Advanced Powerpoint, Excel, Word; fluent European language; banking/finance background useful.

Please call 0171-494 4466 or fax 0171-494 4499.

GORDON·YATES

WORK HARD - PLAY HARD

£18,000 - £22,000 + Paid overtime

Due to expansion, this large International company require PA Secretaries to work in various departments.
If you are looking for a position with lots of responsibility, have the ability to communicate at all levels, enjoy presentation work using Powerpoint & W4W, audio typing speed 60wpm. First class benefits offered. *Please call Lorraine.*

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Fax: 0171 287 1060

PORTMAN
west end 0171 • 287 0220

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£18,000-19,000 + Banking Benefits

American Bank located in the City has an opening for a '2nd jobber' secretary to join a team based in the Capital Markets area. The position requires a well spoken and confident individual who is prepared to work well under pressure and also provide support to the Senior Secretary on the desk.
Knowledge of Word for Windows and Powerpoint would be advantageous, as would a Trading Floor or *financial background, but this is not essential.*

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(Agy)

SECRETARY GROUP TREASURY

£22,00

Our client one of the world's leading Branded Consumer Goods Companies has a superb position for a well presented, professional secretary used to working at Senior level. Excellent secretarial skills, numeracy and computer literacy (Powerpoint, Word 6 & Excel expertise), a flair for producing high quality presentation material, discretion and diplomacy are all essential qualities

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SEGAL
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Bi-Lingual Secretary

£22,000

An impressive European Government Agency urgently requires an assistant secretary of Scandinavian origin, with fluent English. This is a demanding role necessitating three years' previous secretarial experience, good Word4Windows skills and 50wpm. An excellent opportunity for a conscientious candidate seeking an immediate start.

REED
For Executive Secretarial positions In The West End,
Tel: 0171 224 2820
For over 1,000 jobs, visit http://www.reed.co.uk

DTP Secretary

c£20,000 + Benefits

An excellent opportunity to take on an interesting role producing high quality documentation within the finance department of a large investment bank. Working 11am to 8pm, this position requires advanced Word4Windows, Excel and Powerpoint, complemented by a fast typing speed (minimum 50wpm).

REED
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Tel: 0171 638 1666
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STEP UP THE LADDER TO SUCCESS

£16,000
Age 21 - 30 years

Work for a friendly International company who are rapidly expanding due to demand in the market.

Ideal candidates shouls possess Audio / Copy typing speeds of 60wpm. along with the ability to work within a team environment. *Please call Lorraine.*

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Portman Recruitment
181 Oxford Street, W1R 1TA
Fax: 0171 287 1060

PORTMAN
west end 0171 • 287 0220

Belle

8 Staple Inn London WC1V 7QH
Tel: 0171 404 4655 Fax: 0171 831 7581

International Bank, Mayfair, seeks two part-time front-line receptionists for 25 hours per week. Some typing requested. Immaculate grooming a prerequisite for these positions. £12,500pa, FREE GYM, PRIVATE HEALTHCARE, N/C PENSION AND MUCH MORE!

Ideal for 2nd Jobber. Assist Legal Adviser and liaise with external agencies on fraud investigations. Enjoy responsibility and feel part of a team. Audio and good organisational skills requested. Piccadilly location. £16,000pa. BUPA, N/C PENSION, 23 DAYS HOLS AND MORE!

Ideal for 2nd Jobber. Assist a small team of graduates involved in arranging foreign exchanges and appreciate a friendly, academic environment close to Piccadilly. Good Windows skills and an excellent command of English essential. £12,800pa. 24 DAYS HOLIDAY, PPP AND MUCH MORE!

Does psychiatric research interest you? If so, a busy, world-recognised team can offer wide-ranging involvement if you have good secretarial skills. Could be temp to perm. South London, to £15,900pa PLUS GOOD BENEFITS

Please contact Liz Forristal or Sue Folan

SHEILA CHILDS RECRUITMENT

£25,000 plus package

This is a very secure role for an experienced PA with a particular feel for business and administration and a career to date which has been structured and steady. Working for a Main Board Director in a major securities house the role calls for an empathetic warm personality with a polished, educated attitude to both personal presentation and work ethos. Good skills on W4W. Age 30 plus.

4 Ganton Street, London W1V 1LJ
Telephone: 0171 437 3111 Fax: 0171 437 4050

MANAGERS SECRETARY

TO £16,000 +++

Would you like your bens pack to include, PRP, *paid overtime*, sports club, gym, sub lunch, life assur, BUPA, pen, STL, free Dr, dentist, physio + prestigious Blue Chip Co. You will enjoy working in busy/friendly team, *have 2yrs+ sec exp. Typ 60* wpm, Word, Excel, Powerpoint, sec qual. Lots of admin, travel org, client contact. Age 22-28. Call Karen Hutchinson 0171 256 6668.

LOVE & TATE

DON'T MISS OUT!

We have a range of great opportunities just waiting for YOU. Here's a glimpse of what's hot NOW:

JUNIOR SECRETARY VICTORIA £12,000
Exciting position dealing with high profile personalities in the Media business where your professional appearance & approach are essential. Using your Windows and Audio skills, you will be producing various correspondence & reports. The team work hard but have great fun, are your ready to join them?

MARKETING DATABASE SECRETARY/ ASSISTANT VICTORIA £13,000 - 15,000
Build on your knowledge of W4W & Windows Database at 50wpm with a variety of data inputting, admin typing, responding to telephone queries, and working on the Web. An excellent telephone manner and smart personal presentation are essential as you will be involved in company workshops & seminars. A fantastic chance to work in a friendly, professional team.

SECRETARY VICTORIA £15,500
Buzzy, enthusiastic team need your Microsoft Office expertise and dedication to fulfil this key role. Operating at M.D level you will be one of two secretaries providing full support to a team of nine. A position requiring experience and maturity in a
happy, team orientated environment. Plush offices and excellent company benefits.

More information and exciting vacancies are waiting when you contact HANNA or JOANNA: 0171 630 0844
71-75 BUCKINGHAM PALACE ROAD,
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P/A - RECPT. OIL CO

Bright enthusiastic P/A mid 20's to assist small team SW1. Typ.60 to 17K.
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£16,000 pkg

Enjoy top benefits, career progression & being part of dynamic team. 45wpm typ, Power point pref. 21-30yrs. free meals, gym, training.

Val Wade Rec Cons
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career moves

MOVE FROM BEING A RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT TO PERSONNEL/ RECRUITMENT OFFICER FOR TV ORGANISATION

£18 - 20,000

This is a great opportunity for an experienced Recruitment Consultant or Personnel Officer who does alot of interviewing to take on this busy role at a large TV Organisation. A professional, yet warm approach is essential along with a high level of interviewing experience at different levels. Enhance and develop recruitment procedure and relationships with line managers etc. Must be computer literate and able to manage own administration.

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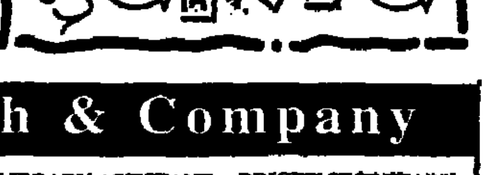

Aldrich & Company

FANTASTIC 1ST JOB!
£15,000 + PACKAGE
Fabulous offices in EC2 - junior sec needed for busy team of bankers - to assist another secretary using shorthand, typing & great communication skills. Fun and busy role.
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LIBRARY ASSISTANT
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Responsible role for junior with some office exp managing the library for Covent Garden based Fund Managers. Masses of admin and organisation. Friendly young team.
Call Alex Gaze

BRIGHT SECRETARY
£14,000 + BENS
Providing secretarial / admin support to a fun team of 5 Surveyors. Lots of organising, preparing presentations, taking messages and diary management.
Call Emma Silverman

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Aldrich & Company

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PC Literate Graduate with superb communication skills to work for the head of Research. A totally challenging, fun admin role in a very hectic environment - a real chance to develop a career in the City.
Call Emily Aldrich

HEADHUNTER'S PA
£16,000 + BENS
Support a busy team of Consultants - *arranging* interviews, speaking to clients, creating CVs and *generally co-ordinating* a team of 3. You need to be fun, enthusiastic and have typing skills.
Call Sarah Turnbull

TRADING FLOOR
£20,000 + FULL BENS
Superb role supporting a *young, dynamic international* team for leading bank. Lots of presentations, budget preparation and telephone work. Fantastic opportunity for a team player with good secretarial skills.
Call Alex Gaze

EXEC SECRETARY
£24,000 + BENS
A high profile, right hand *role with a top Management* Consultancy firm WC2. Dealing with confidential matters, liaising with senior clients and organising events. *Professional sec exp* essential.
Call Emma Silverman

PA/ADMIN - BANKING
£24,000 + PKG
An extremely senior PA required to act as 'right hand' to a very dynamic young director - a very prestigious role with lots of action and involvement.
Call Emily Aldrich

PUBLIC RELATIONS
£16,000 + BENS
Support two dynamic Directors of this young, Financial Public Relations Co. This role involves conference / event planning *& press releases. Shorthand* a plus. Call Alex Gaze

DESK ASSISTANT
£14,000
Junior Asst required for 2 Stockbrokers - providing *sec support.* Great chance to learn about the markets in a support role. Enthusiasm & communication essential.
Call Sarah Turnbull

CORP SERVICES
£16,000 + GREAT BENS
Bright, proactive sec for leading blue chip co, WC2. A fast moving dept supporting a Manager + team. Liaising at all levels. Good organisation and sec skills essential.
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Tel: 0171 680 6806

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Fax: 0171 782 7586

HIGH PROFILE
£20,000

Join this prestigious private hospital as PA to a main board director. Based in beautiful surroundings this lynch pin position will involve fort-holding and constant liaison with VIP's and senior consultants. 50wpm typing / 80wpm shorthand.

Please telephone **0171 495 2321.**

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

FASHION
£23,000

This leading women's fashion group have an opening for a PA to join at board level. You will undertake your own projects, organise events, liaise with clients and effectively manage this head office. Retail background preferred. 60wpm typing essential.

Please telephone **0171 495 2321.**

Elizabeth Hunt
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RECEPTIONIST
£17,000 + BENEFITS

Frontline role in a prestigious partnership. Responsible for meeting and greeting clients, booking meeting rooms and preparation of rooms for use. Working alongside another receptionist, you will have immaculate presentation and a flair for dealing with people.

Please telephone **0171 628 9529**

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SALES ADMIN
£25,000

Exciting opportunity to join this growing company. You will be responsible for running the office and supporting the managing director and team. Your excellent IT skills will enable you to design innovative presentations. 50wpm typing, Microsoft Office Suite.

Please telephone **0171 628 9529.**

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

COLLEGE LEAVERS OR 2ND JOBBERS

When it comes to offering career advice, from post GCSE students to graduates we are old hands at dealing with everyone. Our clients include advertising agencies, finance, publishing and fashion companies. Why not make an appointment to discuss our current vacancies.

Please telephone **Alice Favell** on **0171 628 9529**

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Tate is London's specialist temporary agency and gives its clients a quite extraordinary guarantee: complete satisfaction or their money back - no quibble.

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We are creating quite a splash in London & we now have vacancies for 4 Consultants to service the existing needs of our rapidly growing client list. If you are an experienced consultant, with 2 A Levels you can join a motivated team who deliver *exceptional quality* to every customer. We'll provide full administrative support, the best IT systems, and offer unrivalled career development opportunities including outsourcing and managed agency.

Interested? Contact Linda Kirkland on 0171 408 0424.
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BANKING AND SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

HR ASSISTANT

Prestigious International Bank is seeking a co-ordinator with the charisma to help build and lead a recruitment team through a period of substantial change and growth. This proactive team needs to be complimented with a capable professional who has excellent communication skills, self confidence and the diplomacy to liaise effectively with Business Managers and Suppliers. A positive decisive approach, efficient fast response to meeting managers requirements and p.c. literacy is essential. This challenging role would involve recruiting quality candidates into contract and temporary positions. Preference will be give to individuals with previous recruitment experience.

For further details please call Trish Brooks
Tel: 0171 588 5888 Fax: 0171 588 8010
16 St Helens Place, London EC3A 6DP

PA to MD - £20k London West End

This role will appeal to someone who wants to take a leading role in running a small management consultancy based in London's West End. The ideal candidate will have:

- confident manner with clients
- good secretarial skills
- computer literacy in W 95 with Powerpoint (Quicken an advantage)
- an interest in supporting the marketing effort
- a flexible and adaptable approach, able to act on own initiative.

Contact Jo Hale by phone 0171 485 4400 or fax 0171 487 5780 at Executive Development Consultants Ltd

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GO-GO-GO! PEOPLE COMPANY
£17,000 + Bonus + Bens

[illegible]

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

ROC **£17,500 + Benefits**

Gregarious Second Jobber
Exciting City Position

Calm secretary with sense of humour needed by a leading property company. Work with major blue chip companies in the "square mile". Providing full support to team which purchases and markets commercial properties. 65 wpm.

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ROC Recruitment

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High Calibre Professional
PA to European Supremo
Leading Merchant Bank
Paid O/T, Subsidised Mortgage, Bonus, Share Options, PRP, NC Pension, Life, Health, BUPA, Insurance, Subsidised Restaurant, IFSTL

Maturity and common sense are essential as are 70 wpm and 100 wpm shorthand. Limited supervision, requires extensive use of initiative, intelligence and discretion. Provide full support to Head of European Investment Banking acting as main contact for all European subsidiaries and point of liaison within bank.

ROC House, 45 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1HD
Phone 0171 499 8658 Fax 0171 499 9002
Email; roc@roc.co.uk

ROC Recruitment

WA **£16k + Bens**

"POWERPOINT SECRETARY"

Do you get paid overtime with free use of an in-house gym, a fantastic free lunch, healthcare, a pension scheme, bonus and a season ticket loan? NO? Then why not use your flair for graphics packages combined with your excellent secretarial skills working for this world-wide firm of Managing Consultants? Supporting a young and lively team you will work with them on different projects and they will rely on you to the full. 50wpm typing, Powerpoint and a willing and flexible attitude essential.

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CAREER SECRETARIES!!
c£16,000

Let us OPEN THE DOORS to exciting career opportunities within some of the UK's most prestigious "blue chip" companies. We currently have Secretarial vacancies within:-
Marketing, Personnel, International Auction Houses, Banking and Management Consultancies.

With your 2 years secretarial experience and excellent knowledge of W4W we can arrange immediate interviews for exciting positions with real career prospects.

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An equal opportunity employer.

SUSAN HAMILTON PERSONNEL

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Legal Secretary
Huge West End Law Firm
IFSTL, PRP, NC Pension, Life, Health, BUPA

Work in plush offices for partner and fee earner specialising in corporate law. Must be able to prioritise and meet deadlines. 'A' level educated with 80 wpm.

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ROC Recruitment

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Move Into Media
Trendy Office Manager
Giant Publishing Organisation
NC Pension, LV's, Share Options, 25 days Holiday

Join the lively gang at these beautiful offices of division specialising in entertainment magazines. Take control of day to day running of offices. Responsible for overhead budget, company cars, facilities and all administration matters. Docklands based, this job involves ensuring the smooth running of an efficient office environment.

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Phone 0171 499 8658 Fax 0171 499 9002
Email; roc@roc.co.uk

ROC Recruitment

ROC **£22,000 + benefits**

Executive Level Position
Total Involvement Guaranteed
PA/Office Manager
Bonus, Pension Scheme, BUPA, *Life*, Permanent Health, 20 days Holiday

Outstanding opportunity for natural organiser to take control at leading Mayfair recruitment company. Develop, implement and maintain admin procedures, taking responsibility for H/R, purchasing and office management. Act as PA to busy MD assisting in smooth running of company. Shorthand, 60 wpm, patience and a "business brain" are essential.

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Phone 0171 499 8658 Fax 0171 499 9002
Email; roc@roc.co.uk

ROC Recruitment

ROC **£21,000 + Bank Benefits**

Senior Secretary
International Investment Agency
Free Lunch, Mortgage Subsidy, Generous Bonus, IFSTL, NC Pension, Life, Health, BUPA

Providing support to the two senior directors in private equity and property division. Must be confident and upmarket with good grammar, shorthand and 60 wpm.

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Email; roc@roc.co.uk

ROC Recruitment

ROC **£20,000 + Bank Benefits**

Bi-lingual Secretary
Global Investment Bank
Bonus, Mortgage Subsidy, Life, Health, BUPA, NC Pension, IFSTL

Use your second language (French or German) working as right hand to young, demanding appreciative director in mergers and acquisitions. Must be polished with 65 wpm and a corporate background.

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Email; roc@roc.co.uk

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ROC **£30,000 + Excl Benefits**

PA to Chairman
High Profile Company
Corporate Finance Specialists
Excellent Package

Very approachable Chairman of rapidly expanding specialist company is looking for a PA with first class skills who is intelligent, professional and well presented. Excellent rewards for the right individual. Must have experience of a corporate, client driven environment with a positive approach to business. Banking background and languages ideal but not essential.

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Email; roc@roc.co.uk

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Graduate Opportunities
Leading Management Consultants
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As a Study Support specialist you will provide comprehensive support to consultants and project teams. Loads of research and working on own initiative. 40 wpm and excellent presentation.

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Second Jobber/Graduate
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Major International Blue Chip
Bonus, PPP, Gym Membership, NC Pension, Free Lunch, IFSTL, 25 Days Holiday, PRP

Extremely interesting and involved role encompassing a wide and varied range of topics. Assist senior manager running department which takes care of all public and corporate awareness for very prominent corporation. Arrange events, gifts, parties; liaise with marketing and PR companies, supervise press library. Very high profile role, requires 60 wpm.

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Phone 0171 256 9040 Fax 0171 256 9044
Email; roc@roc.co.uk

ROC Recruitment

ROC **£18,500 + Benefits**

Use Your German
Senior Secretary
Bonus, Life, Health, BUPA, NC Pension, IFSTL

Fast audio and fluent German are essential working for an equity partner at this major firm of chartered surveyors. Mayfair based, in the busy, hectic investment department.

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Email; roc@roc.co.uk

ROC Recruitment

ROC **£18,000 + Benefits**

Move into Personnel
Director's Secretary
Life, IFSTL, Health, PRP, Pension Scheme

Top Legal firm needs confident, polished, articulate secretary with great audio who wants a career in personnel. Plush Holborn offices and a varied role. Excellent opportunity for a second jobber.

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Email; roc@roc.co.uk

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ROC **£16,000 + Guaranteed Early Review**

College Leaver
Directors Secretary
Professional Services Organisation

Beautiful open plan offices in the heart of London's West End are home to this established market leader. Friendly teams of busy architects need secretaries with good qualifications, the ability to learn quickly and a flexible attitude. Wonderful working conditions providing full secretarial support are available to bright secretaries with 60 wpm.

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Phone 0171 499 8658 Fax 0171 499 9002
Email; roc@roc.co.uk

ROC Recruitment

WA **£16k + Bens**

"ADVERTISING SECRETARY"

This is a great opportunity for a bright, outgoing secretary to work for this prestigious Advertising Agency based in the heart of the West End. Working as part of a young and fun team you will be totally *involved and work closely with an Account Manager.* No two days will be the same, your duties will include organisation of diaries, meetings, putting together presentations as well as attending client parties! Good secretarial skills (including Powerpoint) are essential, a graduate is preferred.

0171 225 1888

VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

HEALTH & BEAUTY
£15,000 + product discounts!

[illegible]

ROC **£20,000 + Benefits**

Travel The World
Director's PA
Prestigious Blue Chip Company

Really nice job working 1:1 with Director responsible for selling 4 and 5 star hotels worldwide. Help look after clients, organise projects, dealing with all secretarial and administrative requirements. Position involves international travel and requires a bright, diligent, proactive, hard worker with 60 wpm.

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Email; roc@roc.co.uk

ROC Recruitment

ROC **£15,000 + Benefits**

Ad Fab Advertising Job
Account Group Secretary
True Market Leader
PPP, Pension Scheme, Gym, Subsidised Bar, Life, Health,

Join the busy, frantic world of international advertising working at board level for an Account Director. Loads of telephone work so excellent phone manner essential as is 70 wpm, brilliant layout skills and a cheerful and willing personality.

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Phone 0171 499 8658 Fax 0171 499 9002
Email; roc@roc.co.uk

ROC Recruitment

ROC **£20,000 + Excl Benefits**

Determined & Committed
Sparkling Team Secretaries
Leading Management Consultants
Paid O/T, Subsidised Restaurant, 4 day Week, Gym, Life, Health, Pension, IFSTL, BUPA

Brilliant working environment and total involvement in projects, make this role one of the most varied you will ever encounter. Providing total support for a number of managers who never come into the office, ensures no two days are the same. Work in a team with 5 other secretaries. Must be a team player with 55 wpm and a "can do attitude".

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Phone 0171 499 8658 Fax 0171 499 9002
Email; roc@roc.co.uk

ROC Recruitment

ROC **£20,000 + Bank Benefits**

PA to IT Director
Major Investment Bank
Mortgage Subsidy, Paid O/T, Subsidised Restaurant, Bonus, Gym, NC Pension, Health, Life, BUPA, Subsidised Loans

Assertive, flexible, well organised secretary with audio and a high level of computer literacy needed for varied and interesting role. Provide full support to busy senior director.

Phone 0171 256 9040 Fax 0171 256 9044
Email; roc@roc.co.uk

ROC Recruitment

WA **£16k + OT + Bkg Bens**

"BRIGHT SPARK!"

A busy, buzzy role where you will be able to get involved and make a real contribution to the business. Based in the West End, you will be expected to manage *diaries, process* expenses and deal with the *busy* phones. In addition, you will have an excellent knowledge of W4W and Powerpoint to prepare information for presentations. You will have *plenty* of enthusiasm, common sense, be keen to learn and take on responsibilities with a good sense of humour.

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VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

Portfolio

Recruitment Consultants
Stockley Park

2nd SECRETARY TO THE CHAIRMAN

An exceptional role working in conjunction with the Executive Personal Assistant to the Chairman of a prestigious, international company within the Media industry.

Involved with the day to day office activities this position would suit a mature person with the experience of working at executive level and at ease with the quieter atmosphere associated with the Chairman's office.

Focused on finding the most suitable applicant, the following options of employment would be considered.

PERMANENT PLACEMENT or 'TEMP TO PERM'
FULL TIME or PART TIME

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MEDIA CAREERS

Are you frustrated in a dull job with few prospects? If you are a skilled PA with an excellent track record, or a graduate/college leaver with about a year's experience, we have some brilliant career opportunities to talk to you about. *Call us now if* you'd like to work in the fast moving world of the media in fun, sociable environments with great scope for progression. Typing 55wpm.

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ASSOCIATES
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Recruitment Consultants

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£18,000 - £20,000 p.a.

We currently have two positions for experience Finance PA's based in EC1 & SW6. SH useful, spreadsheets and fast/acc typing ess. Age 28-40.

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Working for a beautiful 5 star hotel, this is not a purely secretarial role as your responsibilities grow to include liaising with clients. Your confident, professional manner and appearance will be essential when meeting & greeting visitors, and AmiPro at 50wpm will equip you for the secretarial aspects of the position.

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OPEN DAY - THURSDAY 17TH APRIL
41/42 LONDON WALL 8.00am to 8.00pm

We are the market leaders in providing secretarial staff and are looking for experienced banking secretaries. In return for your skills and commitment we offer extremely competitive rates of pay. Don't miss out on the opportunity of challenging and exciting positions with many high profile International Banks. We have various long and short term assignments within a variety of departments. If you are interested in the listed jobs below or the many other opportunities we can offer, pop in and meet us on Thursday 17th April: or call to arrange an alternative appointment!

EXPERIENCED DTP OPERATORS £9.50 + phr
CITY
A highly motivated individual with good DTP skills. particulary Quark and W4W. *Proven experience within* a banking environment and the ability to work both on your own initiative and within a team. If this appeals to you, why not take up the challenge? We currently have vacancies within the Equities Department of a high profile International Bank. In return for your skills and commitment you will experience excellent rates of pay, a prestigious work environment and the support to evolve into a permanent member of the team!

SHORTHAND SECRETARY £10 phr
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We need your Shorthand expertise! Various length temporary assignments with Investment Banks require skilled secretaries who are confident using Shorthand on a daily basis. Microsoft Office packages including Word, Excel and Powerpoint are essential. Use you skills to differentiate yourself within the job market. Call to arrange an interview.

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Absolute dedication to duty required from competent, educated and hugely enthusiastic Personal Assistant, willing to take on office management tasks as well as providing first class PA / Secretarial support to successful boss (mid thirties) in return for which an excellent salary and generous biannual bonus is offered. As part of a young, fun and extremely hard working team, you should be flexible with regard to working hours and be fully proficient in Word for Windows possibly with some PowerPoint ability and willing to use audio. The ability to liaise clearly and effectively with people at all levels is essential. Excellent office accommodation within minutes of both Green Park and Piccadilly. Company is part of an international Search and Selection Consultancy with offices worldwide. Please call Catrin Rowlands for further information.

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Information Technology
Career Change - to £25,000

Are you fascinated by what computers and word processors can do? Do you have a high level of competence in MS Word for Windows and perhaps the ability to use PowerPoint too? If so this could represent a fantastic opportunity to break out of the secretarial rut and re-train to become a User Support for an international Executive Search firm in St. James's. Aside from assisting with all manner of queries and enjoying a comprehensive trouble-shooting role, you will also relish the challenge of running the department's routine administration and will have well developed interpersonal skills, enthusiasm and a sense of humour plus the ability to learn new tasks quickly. An excellent salary plus discretionary bonus and other benefits is offered bringing the total package to around £25,000. For further information please call Catrin Rowlands.

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Regis have a talented creative team who participate in shows, events and photo-shoots and the *company offers great* career opportunities to any artistic individuals.

To find out more information about Regis and career opportunities please contact Julie Charlton (direct line) 0171 318 0613.

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Based in the heart of Knightsbridge - great for shopping in all exclusive boutiques - you will enjoy being *part of this small and friendly* team who deal with *property investment* for the rich and famous! Constantly liaising with clients, responsible for the production of all letters, memos and faxes and generally keeping the office running smoothly you will be busy all day. Great benefits on offer in return for a warm personality and 50wpm/W4W.

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The Personnel Manager of this international Investigations company is looking for an administrator to assist her. Previous personnel exp is not necessary, but excellent organisational skills are, as is an ability to prioritise and always be "one step ahead". 50 wpm typing and computer literacy essential.

Telephone *us now for an immediate* interview

Appointments *Bi-Language*

Tel: 0171 355 1975/0171 734 3380
Fax 0171 499 0568
3 Princes Street, London W1R 7RA

MULTILINGUAL positions at rapidly expanding European company. Docklands firm offers temp to perms for all European languages, particularly Swedish and Finnish or German and Dutch. 50 wpm. Word for Windows and NON graduate essential. Call Justine Pitts on 0171 390 7000. Crone Corkill Rec Cons

BI-LING. PA/SEC
To £20K + Bonus
To £40K in 2 years
A proactive Sec. with outgoing personality able to deal with top people in the City: *You will be PA* to a young MD and will be fluent in a language preferably French.
Excellent career opportunity with unlimited earnings for ambitious individual. Ref. 7016.
Telephone:
0171 293 7000

NGO: French-speaking Bilingual Assistant with senior secretarial experience to work in development field. c £14500. Multilingual sec cons 0171 930 4880.

NORTHAMPTON: French & German speaking PA/Secretary for new MD of large international co. Multilingual Services rec cons 0171 930 4880

FINE ART AUCTIONEERS
TO £18,000 + BENS
London based, prestigious firm seeks a PA/Secretary with Russian to assist senior Consultant. Must have English to MT standard with minimum conversational Russian. Good typing (audio & Sh and adv).
The Language Business
Tel: 0171-379 3189
Fax: 0171-379 0624

WA

£23k + OT + Bkg Bens

"A DEMANDING ROLE"

Superb career step for a "juggling genius" to work for a divisional Head of this European Investment Bank. Your responsibilities will be diverse and will range from managing the support staff in the department to liaising with personnel on interview schedules and offers. In addition, you will provide a top class support to your boss organising his hectic schedules and managing the office in his absence. You will be a top notch secretary who is looking to receive plenty of delegation, have excellent skills and be systems literate. French an advantage.

0171 225 1888

VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

APPOINTMENTS Bi~LANGUAGE

FLUENT FRENCH
2nd JOBBERS
£Excellent + Benefits

Good quality secretaries with a minimum of 1 yrs secretarial experience required by top International Finance House. Very dynamic environment. Superb secretarial and non-secretarial administrative roles. Ideally, you will be of graduate calibre, sharp and looking for responsibility. No fading flowers here! Long term career opportunities exist for the right people. Age 22+

2ND JOBBERS
AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY?
LOOKING FOR THAT GENUINE CAREER OPPORTUNITY?

We have a wide range of assignments for candidates with excellent secretarial skills (consolidated in your first job!) in international firms. You have minimum 'A' level education or even a degree and want to get on to a fast-track career path. Long-term or short-term temping can be a step in the right direction. Many of our assignments become permanent. Call now and speak to James, Charles or Edward to discuss your next career move.

Telephone us now for an immediate interview

Appointments Bi-Language

Tel: 0171 355 1975/0171 734 3380
Fax 0171 499 0568
3 Princes Street, London W1R 7RA

PARIS - T.M. International has opportunities for Eng. MT bilingual secs. 1) Financial Institution seeks secretary for small team - 6 hrs/dy. 117KF 2) Telecommunications Co. seeks commercial asst. 155KF 3) Major Consumer Goods Group seeks top PA. 250KF Fax your CV today on 00 33 1.47.42.18.87

PARIS: Degree-level French + Sec skills, WP 60wpm + Word/Excel? Smart & adaptable? Bilingual PAs/Secs req'd in various sectors. 120-250 KF. Sheila Burgess International. Tel 0171 584 6446 or Tel/fax Paris 0033 1 44 63 02 57/59. Regular Interviews London.

PRESTIGIOUS financial company is looking for a receptionist to work part time in their lavish offices. Hours are from 1pm-6pm. Previous experience and fluent French essential. Dynamic, varied role. Salary £9,500. Appointments Bi-Language 0171 734 3380

PRESTIGIOUS design company is seeking an expert credit controller with fluent Dutch and German to work in their busy offices. Relevant experience necessary. £14,000 and good benefits. Appointments Bi-Language 0171 734 3380

Bilinguagroup

Swiss Alps Polished PA with PowerPoint. Lots of travel and responsibility. London based. Fluent French with German.	£30K + Car + Bonus
Frankfurt Make your mark! Int consultancy secretary and Office Manager with German	£25-30K + Bens
Corporate Banking Many language vacancies within Int Banks, incl: Mandarin PA, Snr Ops French PA with PowerPoint. Creative and Involvement	 £25K + Bens £19K + Bens
Int Marketing Cons Sec with German & Harvard Graphics. Progress into Project Co-ordinator.	£15K + Excl Bens
Explore the Middle-East Team sec. Based in Saudi Arabia. Contract job. Free travel, free accommodation + 6 wks hols.	£15K + Excl Bens

Bilinguagroup Rec Cons
Tel: 0171 493 6446 Fax: 0171 493 8168

LANGUAGE RECRUITMENT

****** SECRETARIAL ******

French bilingual Sec for Marketing Div of prestigious Cosmetic Co. Varied role requiring initiative, drive & sound sec skills £15K.

German or French spk team sec for major city finance co. Liaise with int clients, deal with advertising/mailshots, travel. *Great prospects!* £15K + Bens

Italian bilingual Rec/Secretary for major bank £12-14K + Bens

Receptionist (langs useful) for prestigious telecom co central London. Excellent presentation & telephone manner ess. £16K

College-Leaver Secs + Euro langs, 50 wpm typing & gd WP skills are welcome to register - clients include Int'l Banks, Design, *Trading, IT, Drinks & FMCG co's.*

****** NON-SECRETARIAL ******

Italian spkg trainee Bank Clerk. Suit Grad with fluent Italian £15K

Dutch/French & German/Italian tri-lingual Customer Service Execs, W.London £15K + Bonus

Scandinavian/German trilingual Help Desk support £15-16K

German in Dublin - Trainee Accts Clerks with fluent German for int'l co based in Dublin. to IR£13K + reloc. allow.

LANGUAGE RECRUITMENT SERVICES LTD
TEL: 0171 287 0424 FAX: 0171 437 4141

Foreign Affairs
£19,000-£24,000 + Bens

Our client recognises the value of graduate secretaries with languages. If you want to be part of an organisaton that values & rewards your skills, read on!
£19,000 GLOBAL RISK ADVISORY * any Euro lang & advanced Powerpoint
£21,000 MARKETING TEAM * French & advanced Powerpoint
£22,000 ASSISTANT EQUITY RESEARCH * French/German & advanced MS Office
£24,000 DESK ASSISTANT * 2 Euro langs & securities experience - career opportunity!
Get your skills & languages valued! Call Jennifer on 0171 390 7000 Fax 390 2997

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Crone Corkill
Multilingual Recruitment

PROP Co. N3 needs Japanese speaking secretary c£13-£14K. Unique 0181 455 8187.

WATFORD based Co. needs Turkish Speaking PA/Sec. for CEO c £17K. Unique 0181 209 0668

JUNIOR with MT standard English & knowledge of Russian is sought for expanding prestigious Mayfair based trading company. Ideal opportunity for a bright, flexible & cheerful individual with a knowledge of MSOffice who is looking to start their career within an organisation that appreciates long term career development & offers an excellent working environment. To £14,000 + bens. Please call Boyce Recruitment on 0171 287 6060.

HUNGARIAN speaking administrative assistant required for European Investment Bank. Working for a team you will be liaising with clients, maintaining databases, and carrying out ad hoc research work. Minimum 2 years' admin/secretarial and very good written and spoken English essential. Salary £21,500 + bens. Please call Jennifer Ross on 0171 390 7000. Crone Corkill Rec Cons.

MERROW
The Language Specialists

The Head Office team of a leading European manufacturer of High quality goods require a fluent Italian speaking assistant to provide back up to team of senior managers. Word 6.0, good typing skills ess. c£16,000-£18,000 ref:T1

Immediate requirement to join our existing team based on the Swiss/French border working for a prestigious international organisation. Good secretarial skills, fluent French, Word & Excel. Package inc. flights & accommodation allowance ref: M1

Plus many other language opportunities

MERROW EMPLOYMENT AGENCY
73 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9DD
Tel: 0171 499 3939 Fax: 0171 499 2859 Email: 101657.2324@CompServ.Com

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EURO LONDON APPOINTMENTS

PA FLUENT DUTCH OR GERMAN – £19K – CITY
Unusual and varied position as right hand to the Managing Director of this new American Stockbroking House. Previous banking experience a plus. Excellent career opportunities. W4W, Excel.

FLUENT FRENCH PA – c£22K + BKNG BENS
If you are smart, enthusiastic and ambitious, the role of PA to the Director of Structured Finance in this high profile International Investment House could be the ideal answer. You will be constantly challenged and motivated by an *unusual and varied workload. Adv. Powerpoint, W4W.*

FLUENT JAPANESE ADMINISTRATOR
17K-£25K + BKNG PKG
This prestigious Japanese Bank requires a well organised person to deal with all aspects of administration within a Japanese Corporate Division. Accuracy and speed in handling correspondence, making reports/Ringi using MS Word and Excel are imperative.

Tel: 0171 583 0180 Fax: 0171 583 7800
1 HARE PLACE, 47 FLEET STREET, EC4Y 1BJ
e-mail: elafleet@dial.pipex.com

German
£25,000++

'Only the best' has to be our maxim in recruiting for the MD of this City-based firm. He is a dynamic German with a high international profile & needs a very experienced senior bilingual PA (*English/German*) with excellent computer skills (W4W6, Excel, Powerpoint). Numeracy and the ability to translate technical documents into & from German are important, shorthand useful. If you have the organisational & communication skills required to provide first-class support in such a senior role, we are keen to hear from you. Please call Sabina Stewart on 0171 390 7000.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Crone Corkill
Multilingual Recruitment

CREME DE LA CREME

TEMP INTO PERM
Packages to £25,000

Would you buy a suit without trying it on, or a car without test driving it first? We are giving you the chance to try on some jobs for size before making that final decision.

- * Immediate start
- * The decision is yours
- * Take your time and be selective
- * Enjoy a variety of dynamic City companies
- * Pace, pressure, fun, buzz...that's the City!

You need excellent secretarial skills, fast typing and good windows packages. If you are not absolutley sure what you want and like the above ideas, then call our City Temp Desk for expert advice and a selection of fabulous new jobs.
0171 390 7000

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Temporary Recruitment

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

HIGH-FLYING TEMPS!
Earn from £8.00 -£11.00 per hour

Expand your horizons working for prestigious West End and City companies. *If you have any of the following packages* W4W, Powerpoint, Excel and confident typing (50wpm) the sky is the limit. *We are currently* recruiting keen and enthusiastic temporaries who are looking for top rates, guaranteed bookings and a warm caring *service* that puts you first. Take the initiative and call us now.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone 0171 734 7341 Facsimile 0171 734 [illegible]

CREME DE LA CREME

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

2nd Job with a difference!
£17,000

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Telephone 0171 734 7341 Facsimile 0171 734 [illegible]

HOBStones

Top Secretary to £19,000 + bens

Working for three busy Consultants you'll be liaising with clients, organising hectic schedules and doing presentations within this friendly and supportive environment. In return you'll need to be loyal and hard working and keen to contribute towards this lively team. A' levels preferred as is shorthand and Microsoft Office. Minimum 50wpm typing essential.

Call Caroline Galan on
0171 437 6032.

RECRUITMENT

$10 p.h.

Word 55+ wpm

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Elect Crone Corkill for your Winning Temp Strategy

Call 0171 434 4512 to find out why.

Excel

Powerpoint

Crone Corkill
Temporary Recruitment

SUPER SECRETARIES

PA/ Sec £18K + Exc Bens. 70/ 30 admin/ sec role. Real inv + lots of co-ord. Top Int'l firm. Exc prospects. 60 wpm. 3 yrs sec exp. MS Office. Call Suzanne 0171 287 3664

SNR Sec £19-19,500K. High typing content. Inv position dealing with complex issues. 60 wpm. MS Office. Call Suzanne 0171 287 3664 Next Employment

CREME DE LA CREME

SECRETARIES with LANGUAGES £20,000 to £30,000

We are looking for Secretaries with good secretarial skills and a second language - French, German or Spanish to work for a large international client. They offer an excellent work environment as well as interesting jobs. If you are looking for change or would like to find out more about these exciting positions then ....

...please call Caroline on 0171 499 5881
Adecco Elite (Rec Cons)
16 Lansdowne Row,
Berkeley Sq., London W1X 7LN

Adecco *Elite*

B.J. CRAWFORD'S
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Senior PA to a young dynamic Chief Exec of international design and manufacturing company. Very involved position with lots of projects to run. Ideal candidate would be mid 30's, have 100wpm shorthand and W4W - a lively team player. Salary c£25,000 plus benefits

B J CRAWFORDS (Rec Cons)
0171 935 9692

TEMPS TO £12.00 PER HOUR

Top rates. Great jobs. User friendly consultants. Some of the best companies to work for, City & West End locations. How? Simple really, we want the best for you, our respected clients and ourselves. Good skills (possibly another language), adaptability and flexibility are the keys to successful temping. Whether you seek a long term contract, a temp to perm job or a few weeks *here or there, we can help.* So call us today.

Call Nicole Simmons on 0171 377 5500 or fax your CV to 0171 377 5589

CROSS SELECTION

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

No experience necessary!

RECEPTION/ADMIN
Get into Media · £11-12,000

[illegible]

SUPER SECRETARIES

A Top Sec P/A £18K + Bens to work for a property co. in a new project management team. Exc. opportunity to progress as the team is expanding and you will need to recruit, set up systems and manager junior secs. Property or Professions background an adv. Gd typing WP6.1 Courtney & Co 0171 834 6000.

AUDIO SEC £18,000 + Ex perks. Prestigious est off req cheerful sec for charming Director. Ideal position for someone who enjoys a secure/ friendly environment. Must have 65+ wpm typing/ good proven track record. Ideal age 26 yrs+. Venture Plus Personnel 0171 493 5122

CLIENT Assistant £22,000. Working on a busy trading desk this will suit someone who loves a busy role, phone work and minimal typing. Any European lang. useful. Please fax CV's 0171 734 4905 Sarah Stewart-Smith Rec or call 0171 734 5965.

EXEC Sec reqd by top Intnl. Management consultancy. Based in stunning W1 offices. Working 1-1 at senior level 9-5.30. Very little overtime! Suit polished sec. with 'A' levels (min) and 65 wpm audio WP skills. To £23,000 + bonus + bens. G.P. Agy. 0171 306 3196

FASHION £17,000 - Excellent benefits and role development offered in this well known *fashion* company. Involvement, variety and challenge for candidates with 80 wpm shorthand. 0171 495 2321. Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants.

GRAD Rec Admin £15K Pro Rata. 6mth contract. Good admin skills, Maths/ Eng GCSE C+ passes, 6mth + work exp. Windows/ Excel exp. Avail imm. Top Int'l firm. Inv. role. Call Suzanne 0171 287 3664 Next Employment

LATE BIRD C£18000 Film co W1. 2-9pm Mon-Fri S/H 90/60 typing/Wordperfect. Call 0171 287 2044/Fax 0171 287 3717 Middleton Jeffers Rec Ltd

£22-£25K *4/5 days/wk.* More than PA. Charming American needs a mature (35-45) Ass't to help in research & project handling for small Corp. Finance Co. in Victoria. "State of the Art" tech. means you must be highly IT literate - Internet, Graphics, Databases...etc! German/ Sp useful. To discover more, call Anderson Hoare! (rec Cons) 0171 824 8821.

NO PRESSURE - £18,000. Victoria based blue chip plc. seeks traditional, articulate and flexible secretary for their *General* Counsel. No previous legal experience required. Very *friendly* company. 80 shorthand 55 typing, audio + Windows. Age 35+. 0171 637 3212 Summers By Two Rec Cons

£20,000 PA to Finance Director of major design and retail company. 80/55 Sheila Childs Rec. 0171 - 437 3111.

PERSONNEL Co-Ord £22-23K + Exc Bens. 85/ 15 admin/ sec. Inc inductions + org. training + co-ord of office moves + supervision of staff. 60 wpm strong admin/ org background. Call Suzanne 0171 287 3664 Next Employment

PERSONNEL Assistant - 23K - City. Assisting Deputy Manager with all aspects of Personnel. Must be fully conversant with the payroll function. Initially 6 month contract. Please call Kate Bromet at Crone Corkill 0171 390 7000.

12-8pm Powerpoint Secretary required by US bank near *Liverpool Street* to produce high-class presentations. For a flexible, team spirited person, this could be a 6 month contract in a top Wall Street firm. Please telephone Victoria on 0171 550 7000. Hobstones Ltd Rec Cons.

SECRETARY req for busy City estate agent. Would suit junior/trainee. Must have audio. Please send C.V. with handwritten covering letter to HSC, 37-41 St John Street, London EC1 quoting Ref. TQ.

SECRETARY/*Office Administrator* required. Busy Estate Agents/Surveyors in Battersea SW11. Mainly dealing with Commercial Property/surveys. Computer literacy and outgoing personality required. Excellent package for right person. All enquiries Amanda Dowling 0171 350 1300.

SECRETARY/Audio Typist *required for firm of Solicitors* with pleasant offices on Richmond Green. Must possess good audio typing skills. Legal background preferred but not essential. Box No 4446.

TEMP to Perm P.A. position for Auctioneers in Clapham. Windows on Mac + good Audio skills. Must have strong character and like to organise manic boss. £18-19K T.J. Office Appointments 0171 838 0023

SEN. Secretary/ PA SW1. Mature sec required to assist in organising Royal events, functions, and social engagements. 35-45 yrs, exc presentation and skills req'd. Previous exp in the social arena an advantage. Hrs 9-5.30 flex Sal. £30K. Phone Jenn Green 0171 225 1942 *or fax 0171 225 1941 McKeague-Green* Recruitment

CONFERENCE ASSISTANTS
£14,500
This could be your entree into the much covered world of conference organising. Joining at assistant level you will be in on the action right from the start. Educated to A'level, you will have an excellent speaking voice & presentation, an out-going personality & 50 wpm for occasional typing. Age 20's.
NORMA SKEMP REC LTD:
0171 222 5091

HOME SWEET HOME
£16,000
Based in a quiet SW1 Mews, not far from Sloane Square this prestigious company req a PA to work for 2 charming young professionals. To be part of this friendly, expanding company you must have an excellent tel manner & enjoy plenty of client contact + fast typing (min 55wpm) & a min 1yrs exp. Age 20's.
NORMA SKEMP REC LTD:
0171 222 5091

TEMPTING TIMES

ABSOLUTELY fabulous temping in the West End. We are a privately owned consultancy with a personal approach and friendly and interesting clients. We are currently looking for secretaries and receptionists to fill a variety of bookings. Competitive rates of pay. Call Jo Tennant at Susan Doughty Recruitment on 0171 491 7911 NOW!

EXPERIENCED Receptionists £8. p.h. for prestigious international blue chip company soon to relocate to Knightsbridge. Bookings *throughout* The Summer. King & Toben Rec 0171 629 9648

TEMPS needed. NW London and town. 'ad-hoc'/long-term. Unique 0181 455 8187

RECEPTION SELECTION

CHELSEA Entertainment Multimedia *Co in lavish offices* require energetic receptionist to join laid back hard working team. Do you have 6 mnth exp, keyboard skills & a positive outlook? This could be the one for you! Sal. to £14.5K. Call Anderson Hoare (rec cons) 0171 824 8821.

RECEPTION SELECTION

£17,000 *Lovely Chelsea.* No need to commute! Busy receptionist needed for this young successful co. Keyboard knowledge an adv. Age 25-45. King Anderson Hoare (Rec) 0171-824-8821

EVENING RECEPTIONIST £15,500 & benefits (12 noon-8pm) For prestigious City law firm. Main responsibilities will be to ensure a friendly and professional welcome for clients of the firm, booking conference & training rooms, liasing with conference room staff, assisting at seminars & other functions as well as booking cars & other admin duties. The Recruitment Company. 0171 831 1220

PART Time Receptionist. Hours: 8.30am - 2.00pm or 1.00pm - 6.30pm. Front desk, high profile environment must be polished and well spoken. £12,500 p.a + fabulous package. 0171 495 2321. Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants.

PLEASE see our ad in part-time section. Susan Doughty Recruitment.

RECEPTIONIST £15,500 & Benefits. Large City law firm requires two receptionists to join their expanding front-line team. *Greeting visitors,* organising room bookings for conferences, lunches & seminars, liaising with conference caterers and general office admin. You will be a confident, friendly person with a professional manner. The Recruitment Company 0171 831 1220.

RECEPTIONIST required by prestigious co, 25 hours per week. Busy, varied role for someone with previous rec/tel experience. Salary £12,500 pro rata. Please call 0171 494 4466 Gordon Yates Recruitment

£14,000 Socially aware PA for VIP 24 hours a week. Age 35 plus. Sheila Childs Rec. 0171 - 437 3111.

SPORTS Promotion. Rec/Telephonist required to join young, lively and dedicated team, based minutes from Green Park tube. Excellent interpersonal skills req'd plus the ability to juggle a huge amount of telephone calls, meet and greet visitors and handle various admin. tasks too - all with good humour and enormous efficiency! *Salary in the region of* £13,000. Previous two job holders promoted. Call Jo Tennant at Susan Doughty Recruitment on 0171 491 7911 fax - 0171 491 7922

CRAVE CREATIVITY?
£14,000
Advertising Enter the dynamic world of advertising by joining the first rate company as admin/receptionist. This position presents an opportunity for someone with a min of 1 yrs experience to work with a young, fun & friendly team. Excellent presentation together with W4W & typing 45wpm. Based W1.
Norma Skemp Ltd Rec Ltd:
0171 222 5091.

PART TIME VACANCIES

£18,000 pa + bens City client requires immaculately presented Part Time Receptionist. Suit mature professional with prev exp. Call Middleton Jeffers Rec Cons on 0171 377 6777 or fax 0171 377 5079

PART TIME VACANCIES

EXPERIENCED, mature secretary required for small property company in Regents Park. 4/5 hours daily. 0171 935 0496.

CHARITY Fundraising Urgently needed, 2 people for worthwhile and rewarding work in friendly Fulham offices. Courteous telephone manner and confident personality essential. Commission only. Please phone 0171 581 1597.

£15,000pa - Mon - Fri- 5pm to 10pm City. Corporate finance sec. for large Inv Bank. Exp. professional sec. with City/financial exp pref. Must have W4W and Freelance or P'point. Call now for immed. *interview on 0171 377 6777* Middleton Jeffers Rec Cons.

PART Time Rec/ Tel £12,500 + bonus + fantastic bens. Polished, professional receptionist needed for prestige intl. W/End concern. AM or PM position. Must be able to handle VIP visitors & ideally be aged 25-45 yrs. Call Vanessa 0171 242 3276 (SMP *Agy). Fax 0171 831 5352*

PART-TIME Receptionist/ Telephonist two shifts- either 8.30 a.m. until 2.00 p.m. or 1.00 p.m. until 6.30 p.m. Excellent salary *£12500 plus uniform,* bonus, gym, pro-rata holiday and other benefits. Beautiful offices in Mayfair. Call Catrin Rowlands at Susan Doughty Recruitment on 0171 491 7911 for info.

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

TRAINEE Bilingual Recruitment Consultant. English Mother Tongue with German or Italian. Are you highly motivated with a positive outgoing personality, wanting to be successful? We are a leading bilingual recruitment consultancy aiming to expand our operations in Central London. Exc. training+prospects. If you want to be part of a professional team please write or telephone Bilingual People 18 Hanover Street London W1R 9HG Tel: 0171 491 2400 or Fax: 0171 491 1900

FIRST CREME

PA + 8 WEEKS HOLS + £16,000 + free lunch. Head of Education & Training seeks proactive secretary with excellent communication skills. Would suit polished, socially confident person who would enjoy attending functions & conferences. 50 wpm typing. Windows + DBase exp. Age 24+. Please call 0171 637 3212 Summers By Two Rec Cons

ASSISTANT PA. Super 2nd jobber opportunity to £15,000 + benefits. *In small friendly professional services firm located at* Victoria. Secretarial/ Reception/ Computer skills. Call Susan on 0171 730 2122.

FASHION to £16,000 + PRP. Telephonist/Typist sought by high profile world famous retail fashion company. Helpful, articulate and flexible person sought for split varied role. 40 wpm typing, W4W + Meridian switchboard experience. Please call 0171 637 3212 Summers By Two Rec Cons

£13,500 Marketing agency in Knightsbridge would like a newly qualified secretary to help run the office. Extremely involving role. Please fax CV's 0171 734 4905 Sarah Stewart-Smith Rec 0171 734 5965.

SW1 SECRETARY £16,000 min. Young outgoing secretary sought by small lively property *company.* Would suit team player who enjoys organising social events and presentations on Powerpoint! You need a sense of humour! 55 wpm audio + W4W. 0171 637 3212 Summers By Two Rec Cons

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 46 FOR MORE SECRETARIAL VACANCIES

CREME DE LA CREME

Artistic Arena - £23,000 - £25,000

1 Utilise your love of classical music by working with this Chief Executive. Excellent skills and exceptional organising ability will be required in a demanding role but one full of variety and challenge. 100/70 W4W Age 28-35.

2 No time to read but working within this publishing company is fast-moving and invigorating. A good communicator will thrive in this creative international environment. 100/70 W4W. Age 28-35.

0171 629 9323

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME

OFFICE Administrator req. for small international marketing co., Battersea. £15,500. Call Elaine 0171 924 2980, or fax CV 0171 924 2991.

OFFICE MANAGER required by Genesis Engineering Consultants, WC2. A rapidly growing consultancy to the oil & gas industry seeks an energetic person with good negotiating/organisational, IT & HSE skills. Challenging and responsible role. £23,000 + Send CV to Kathy Robertson, 20/22 Stukeley St., London WC2B 5LR or call 0171 430 0040.

INTERIOR DESIGN

£18,000

Administrator required by expanding interior design practice. Ability to organise & take responsibility for costings & communication with both clients & suppliers. Attention to detail & tenacity to succeed are essential & duly rewarded. Please Reply to Box No 4423

SOFTWARE, EC4. Startup co. needs office mngr / admin / bkeeper, some Powerpoint, c£20K+ Unique 0181 455 8187

ADMINISTRATOR

for financial think-tank

Good office management and secretarial skills essential. Salary £15-18K.

Please send CV to: CSFI,
18 Curzon Street,
London W1Y 7AB.
Fax 0171 493 0190

FIRST CREME

PA to £16,000. As Group Secretary to this lively team working on healthcare accounts, your interest or relevant experience would be useful. Lots of involvement for a bright outgoing young 2nd jobber. 45 wpm typing. W4W + Powerpoint pref. Please call 0171 637 3212 Summers By Two Rec Cons

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME

OFFICE POWER

to £8.00ph

- Do you have a good data inputting speed (min 6,000kdph)?
- Can you set up databases from scratch?
- Do you have experience on a variety of switchboards?
- Comfortable in an accounts department ploughing through mounds of paperwork?
- Graduate with either market research or sales experience?
- Are you a "Jack/Jill of all trades" - happy to help with the filing, photocopying, postroom or whatever is thrown your direction?

Then we would love to hear from you as we specialise in non-secretarial positions such as clerical, data inputting, database work and a variety of admin roles. If you have the above skills and are flexible and well presented then we can offer you a variety of short and long term bookings, competitive rates (up to £8.00 per hour) and our AIRMILES incentive.

⊖ Bank	⊖ Piccadilly
0171-390 7000	0171-434 4512

Crone Corkill
Office

SUPER SECRETARIES

SECRETARY

For busy Knightsbridge based chartered surveyors. Hard working and sense of humour essential. Windows 95 salary according to experience.

Call Andrew Bishop
581 0064

FIRST CREME

Ambitious?

£12 - 14,000

If you are looking for a career rather than a straight job this small prestigious property company are looking for a keen individual to start at the bottom. Full training given, you will be liaising directly with tenants. Teamy and flexible attitude with secretarial skills and excellent grammar will stand you in good stead. Call Camilla Loughton on 0171 434 4512.

Crone Corkill

CREME DE LA CREME

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Are you an experienced Powerpoint operator or presentation secretary? Long or short term bookings available for West End and City clients. For an interview call Cherie Macgregor - Skinner or Rachel Huggins at Tate Appointments on 0171 408 0424.

TEMP SPECIALISTS

TEMPTASTIC

Take one secretary. Blend with London's top employers. Surround with high quality temp consultants. Pre-heat with tea and a chat. Add 50wpm, Word for Windows, Wordperfect, Ami Pro or DTP skills. Sprinkle generously with exciting bookings and regular work... Tate have the recipe to keep top temps happy. Call Cherie Macgregor-Skinner or Rachel Huggins on 0171 408 0424.

FIRST CREME

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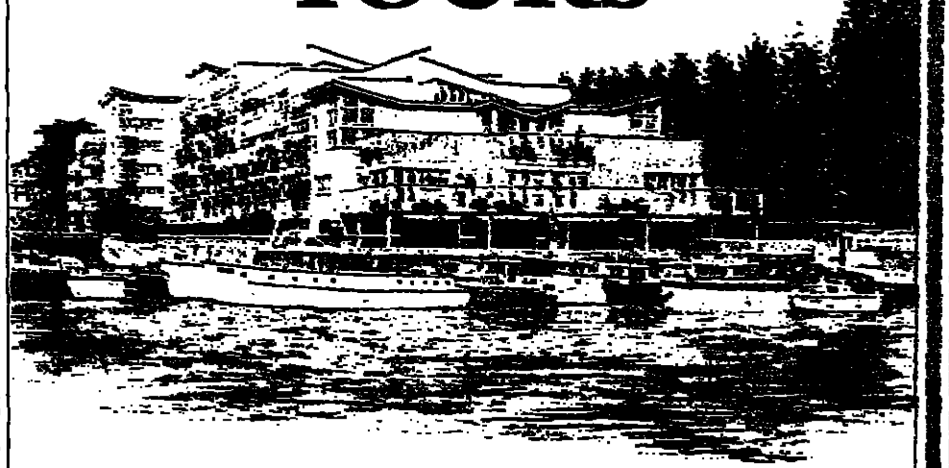

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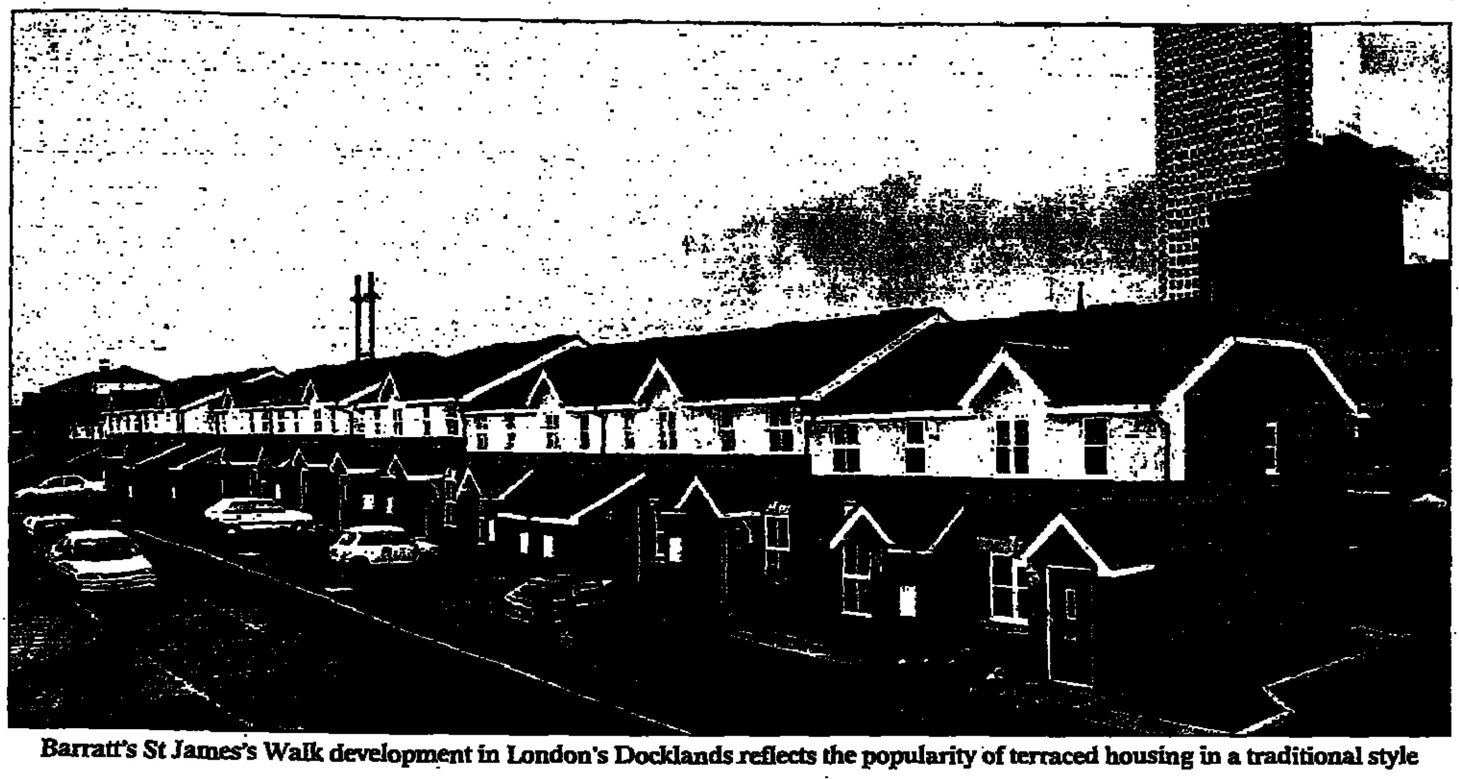


Barratt's St James's Walk development in London's Docklands reflects the popularity of terraced housing in a traditional style

Why the terrace is best

Terraced homes are poised to make a comeback. **Christine Webb** reports on the housing that is particularly British

The debate about Britain's imminent housing explosion has intensified since March, when final responses to the Government's discussion paper on our future were handed in. But it is difficult to imagine any better way of providing the high-density housing we need than the British terrace.

David Pretty, Barratt's Southern chairman, says: "Even where flat-dwelling is the norm, many people still instinctively feel that the ideal property is their own house, with their own front door and garden."

The Department of the Environment's Green Paper, *Household Growth; Where Shall we Live?*, set out to provoke debate about where to put the 4.4 million households that will need to be accommodated by the year 2016 (because of longer lifespans, the rising divorce rate, and a trend for people to live on their own). The Department favours fitting 60 per cent of these households into high density housing in existing towns and cities.

Robert Jones, the Planning Minister, says: "High density does not have to mean high-rise. Terraced housing with a garden — the staple of London housing — is very versatile if well-designed."

Even without Government backing, terraced homes were already coming back into fashion in 1995, when 59 per cent of valuers surveyed by the NatWest Bank said they thought terraced houses were the first choice for first-time buyers.

This is not surprising. Terraces are integral to the British townscape, and set us apart from the rest of Europe. More of us already live in terraced houses than in any other kind of property.

The way was cleared for a standard street width after the Great Fire of London when the architect John Wood built the façade of the north side of Queen's Square, Bath, to look like a Palladian mansion.

The idea was seized on by London architects. Regent's Park terraces were even faced with stucco and painted gold to look like Bath stone. Elegant flat-fronted Georgian terraces followed, and then came the building bonanza of the 19th century. The Victorians and Edwardians built them speculatively, usually following in the wake of railway lines. By 1911, 87 per cent of British homes were terraced.

Plenty of modern builders have returned to the genre, although Keith McEwan, David Wilson Homes northern region chairman, is less than whole-hearted. "Our buyers prefer semi-detached homes to terraces," he says. "Today's buyer wants more for his money and a traditional semi represents more perceived value than a terrace. And if there are more than three or four terraced houses in a block they're harder to sell. We build terraces on 33 per cent of sites, mostly for first-time buyers in the £45,000 to £55,000 bracket."

Wimpey Homes says it has never stopped building terraced housing, which it targets at the first time buyer. Malcolm Pitcher, the national marketing director, says: "Now housing is more affordable, people can start with a two-bedroom terraced house. Most of us would like more space."

This is a trend picked up by The House Builders Federation. David Mote, a spokesman, says single people are going for more space. "Our research shows single occupants can range from a well-off IT executive to a widow or divorcée. They all have friends or family who want to stay. These small households the Government alludes to won't want one-bed houses.

"There is a shortage of building land, and we know people have not been building houses fast enough since 1991 to meet the target by 2016, so there may well be a shortfall."

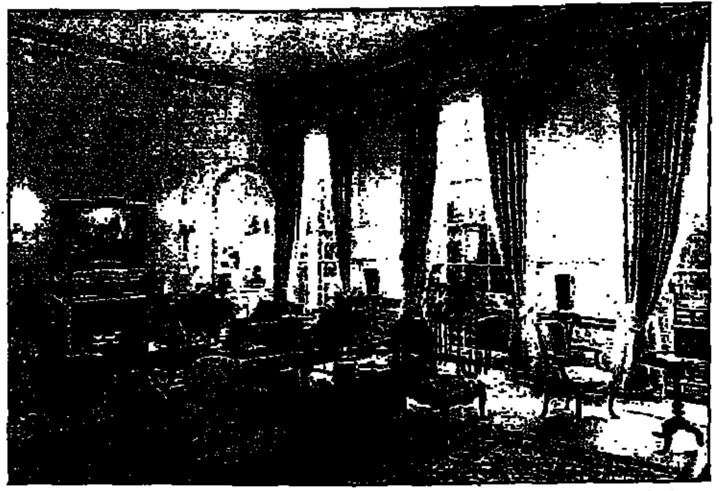
Barratt has been busily terracing away, including at three developments of traditional houses in Limehouse, Poplar and Bermondsey, London, that are all virtually snapped up ahead of construction. These areas are otherwise dominated by apartments, and the two-bedroom houses started at under £70,000. But almost every buyer said they felt home meant a proper house with a garden to tend and relax in.

Leigh Stark, 29, a chef, bought his Barratt terraced house in Bermondsey. His home is so central he cycles to work. "It's the best of both worlds," he says, "a house with a garden close to the centre of town. I'm really chuffed."

The Berkeley Homes group is building terraced homes, often called town houses, at various sites throughout Britain, from 199 terraced Victorian-style villas at its Oxford Waterside development, where a four-bedroom end-of-terrace villa costs £237,500, to St Dunstan's Gate, Canterbury, where a two-bedroom mid-terrace costs £78,500. Here the terraces are such a striking reproduction of Victorian speculative building that one feels one is stepping back into the golden era of the terrace — or is a new one dawning?

Katherine Bergen on a grand house about to regain its true destiny

An office becomes a mansion



Three-bedroom apartment overlooking Hyde Park: £1.5 million

The urge to do some arithmetic when presented with an £8 million property with 16,700 sq ft on a 120-year lease is irresistible. Elgin House in Mayfair works out at £479 a sq ft.

It is difficult to know what to expect from that sq ft. As someone who is 5ft 6in tall, my entire length cost less to clothe than that. But certainly the foot of space that I occupied as I stood looking out at the stunning view down Hill Street into Berkeley Square through one of the five tall French windows in the 45ft-long drawing room felt like value for money.

Elgin House is not really a home yet. On three floors the grand reception rooms have been converted to office space and four separate apartments occupy one side of the building. Plans for reconversion have been put to the Grosvenor Estate and are being finalised, but as it now exists, the "house" is an uneasy mixture.

But if potential buyers can conjure up some imaginary furniture, it is possible to see how easily these offices could be turned back into the main rooms of a grand house. The proportions of the rooms have hardly been altered and, except for an unlikely number of lavatories, which were for office staff, they would need only redecoration and furnishing to taste.

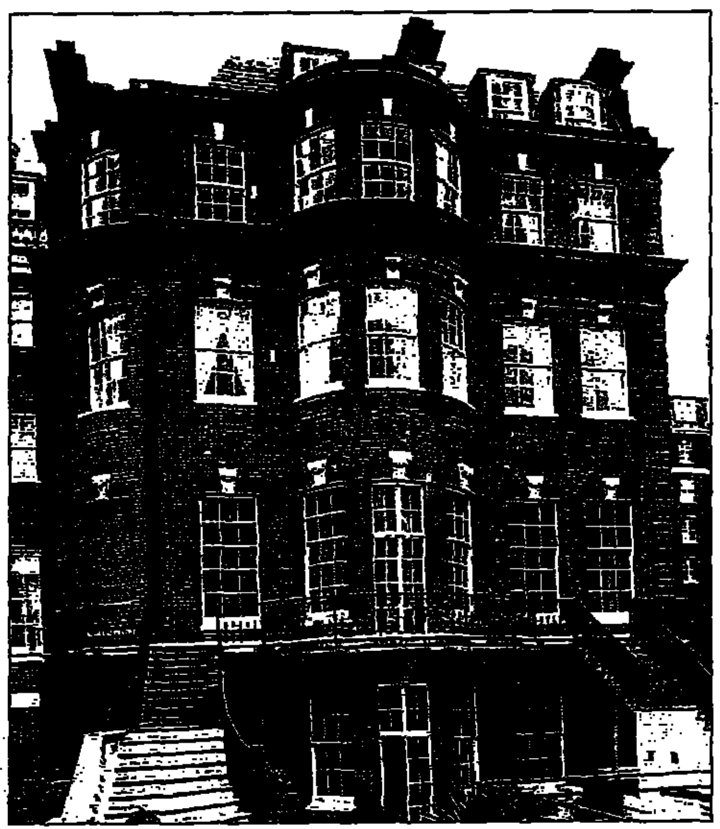
From the outside, the red-brick building looks like the graceful townhouse that it once was. One of the huge offices in the basement could be turned into a kitchen, and another, lit by a glass pyramid skylight, would be suitable for a swimming pool and gymnasium area.

Though the four apartments have been carved out of the original house, the rooms are also well-proportioned and each have two bedrooms and two bathrooms, as well as elegant reception rooms.

The first of these would make an impressive bedroom suite for the new owners. The three remaining could house staff or grown-up children and, conveniently, a separate staircase serves this wing. At the back of the house is a small paved garden. This leads to a more verdant communal garden with a fountain, accessible only to the 12 houses that surround it.

Nikolaus Pevsner, the art historian, probably would not have quibbled at the price. He said of the building: "It might well be called the finest terraced house in London." He added that it had "the grandest staircase and the grandest drawing room of an 18th-century private house in London". That might persuade a buyer hesitating over the cost of extra work.

● *Agent: De Groot Collis, 0171-235 8090*



Elgin House, in Hill Street, Mayfair: £8 million, or £479 a sq ft

For about a fifth of the price of Elgin House, a three-bedroom apartment overlooking Hyde Park is available for £1.5 million on a 49.5-year lease. At 3,336 sq ft, this is also about a fifth of the floor space of the property in Mayfair. It is said to be in "superb decorative order", so a new owner should not have to make a large financial commitment to redecorate.

The apartment is on the first floor of a stucco-fronted Regency building in Hyde Park Gardens and has views over three acres of landscaped gardens and the park. The rooms have 15ft high ceilings and both the main reception room and the master bedroom have floor-to-ceiling sash windows.

● *Agent: Keith Cardale Groves, 0171-586 8001*

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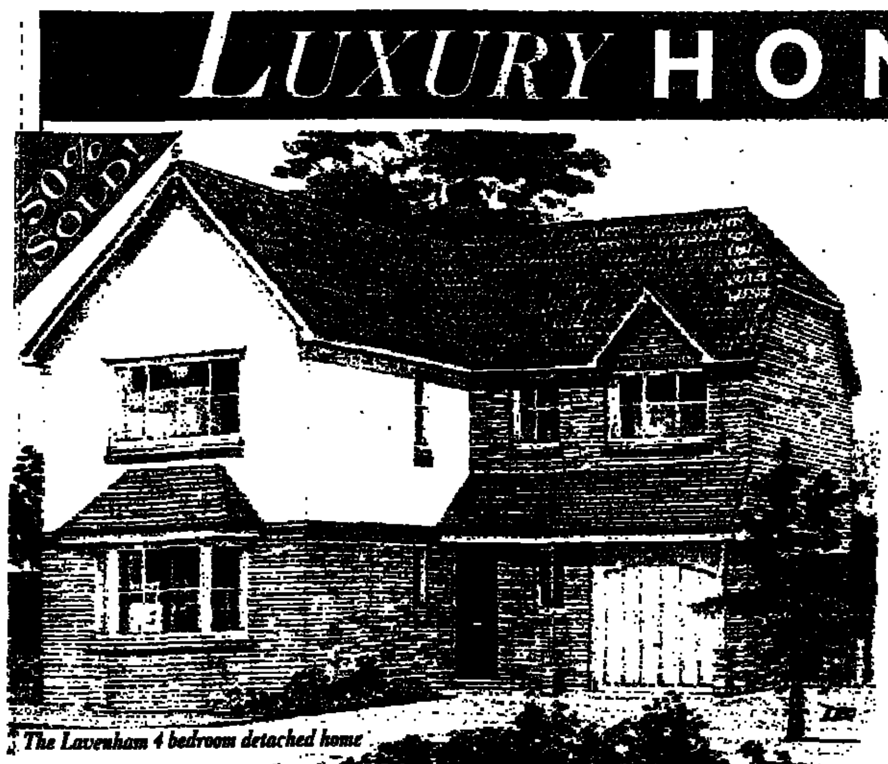

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RR019009	Pueblo Evita	Spain	33	Red	6	£1750
RR018723	Club Playa Torre	Spain	32, 37	Red	6	£1750
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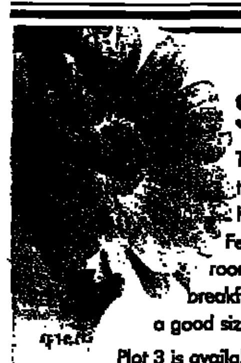

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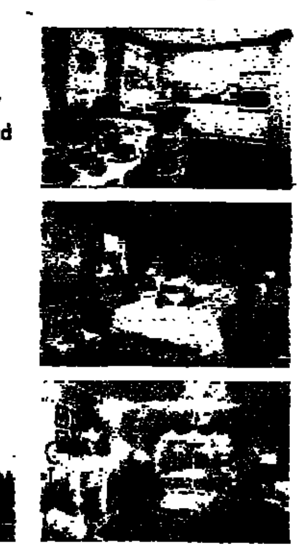

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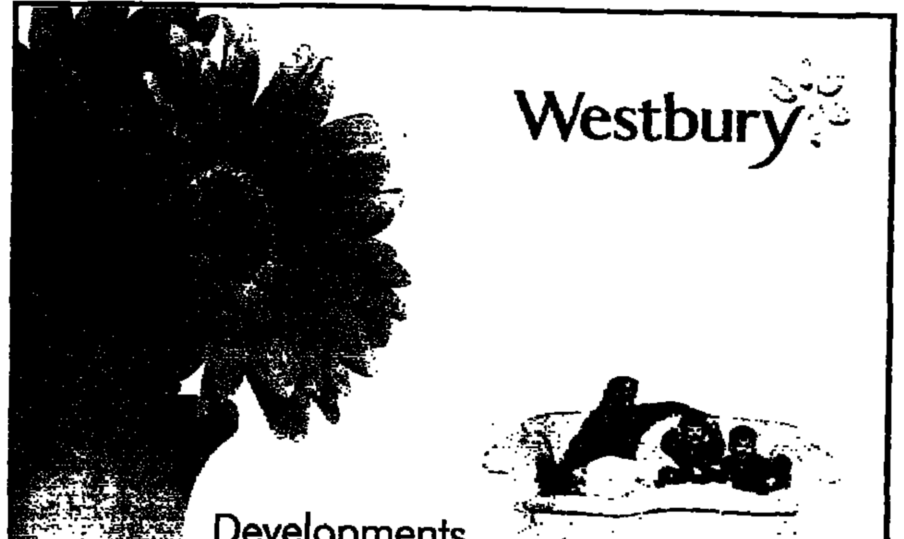

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RACING: CLASSIC CLUES BEGIN TO FILTER THROUGH AS FLAT SEASON BEGINS IN EARNEST AT NEWMARKET

Syndicate owners gather to celebrate Reunion

By Julian Muscat

THE joy of syndicate ownership was plainly evident at Newmarket yesterday when two celebrated victories which threaten to sweep them to the season's opening classics.

Highclere Thoroughbred Racing struck first when Reunion burst through from the rear of the field to land the Shadwell Stud Nell Gwyn Stakes with complete authority. The partnership is known to its 15 members as the Napoleon's Chair syndicate after an item of furniture in the Carnarvon ancestral home. Each paid £10,000 to join and they can now entertain outside 1,000 Guineas ambitions for Reunion.

The requisite fee makes it exclusive to most, yet the Highclere syndicate pales by comparison to the syndicate which campaigns Poteen. The colt, who brushed aside Za-Im in the NGK Spark Plugs Conditions Stakes, is the property of two lords, an earl and a prince who, if Poteen continues to progress, may not have to swap his kingdom for a horse capable of winning the 2,000 Guineas.

Granted, these syndicates are beyond the means of all but a handful. But to see them bonded together in celebration was to recognise that victory is all the sweeter when it is shared. Earl De La Warr, who orchestrates the partnership, has never owned a racehorse outright. And it was his enthusiasm for the concept which fired the imaginations of Lords Pope and Vestey, stockbroker Michael Kerr-Dineen, American businessman Bob Goldhammer and owner breeder Gerald Leigh. Peripheral partners include Prince Khaled Abdulla.

Tony Dobbin, the Grand National-winning jockey, misses the Scottish equivalent at Ayr on Saturday after being found to have broken a collarbone in a fall at Hexham on Monday. Jamies Osborne replaces him on Major Bell, trained by Alistair Whillans.

"The whole thing is run very informally," the earl said in the winner's enclosure. "I always like to include lucky people and Gerald Leigh is, by common consent, a lucky owner." Mind you, the earl is hardly beset by a bloodstock curse. "I am among those one in a thousand who seem to be in front on my bloodstock investment." The dividends may not have stopped accruing: Grapeshot carries the partnership's hopes in the Craven Stakes tomorrow.

Poteen's victory was gained in workmanlike style after Za-Im, his solitary opponent of note, struck hard for home after a pedestrian early pace. It took Poteen some time to master Za-Im by a neck, but one important aspect militates in favour of his 2,000 Guineas prospects.

Luca Cumani, who trains the son of Irish River, produced him fit enough without having unduly tightened the spring. "I ran him here because I would like him to have two more gallops before the Guineas," the trainer said. "It turned into a sprint and distances between horses tend to be less defined in these circumstances."

Reunion, by contrast, was advanced in both fitness and condition for the Nell Gwyn. Nevertheless, her comfortable defeat of Oh Nellie and Elegant Warning fully entitles her to a berth in the 1,000 Guineas. "She can improve again," John Hills, her trainer, said.

On an informative afternoon, Shawaf and Street General were both decisive winners in maiden company. The former may yet tackle the 2,000 Guineas while the latter holds the Derby engagement.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Pat Eddery drives Poteen, right, to victory over Za-Im at Newmarket yesterday

Wild Rice to give Wragg taste of success

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

NEWMARKET

CHANNEL 4

2.05: Madly Sharp goes well fresh and runs his best races at this track, having won twice and finished runner-up on the other two starts. Bill Watts has an excellent record here and the booking of Pat Eddery makes him one for the shortlist. Highborn won here last autumn off a 2lb lower mark and should be straight after a respectable effort over an inadequate trip at Ripon seven days ago.

However, Geoff Wragg has his string in form and **Wild Rice**, who has been showing up well on the home gallops, makes considerable appeal. He recorded his best effort over course and distance when beaten less than half a length last October, goes well on fast ground and could be best caught fresh.

2.35: Wixim is sure to win some decent races this term but prefers ease in the ground, as does Acharne. The Julie Cecil-trained pair, Restructure and Behaviour, look exposed, while Ali-Royal, arguably the form choice, is not certain to appreciate today's extra furlong.

Twice-raced maidens do not win many group races but **Rocky Oasis** is a most interesting runner. Just beaten at Sandown last spring by Shantou, the subsequent St Leger winner, he then suffered a setback but has been working well at home. He can enhance Michael Stoute's outstanding record with older horses.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: WILD RICE
(2.05 Newmarket)
Next best: Rebecca Sharp
(4.15 Newmarket)

3.05: Hidden Meadow, a good third to Desert Story in the Horris Hill Stakes, looks best in at the weights and has Frankie Dettori riding, but Ian Balding's yard is not firing on all cylinders. This appears a below-average running of the Free Handicap and there could be a surprise. Juwwi looked useful last summer but has not raced since July. Andreyev has been pleasing Richard Hannon at home but it could pay to take a risk with **Mukaddar**, who did little wrong in three starts last term, ending up with a good second behind Papua in a valuable race here.

3.40: Angus-G makes considerable appeal in a tight handicap. Twice a winner over the July course last summer and third in the Cambridgeshire, Mary Reveley's five year-old is still relatively lightly raced and should benefit from the step up to 1½ miles. At Liberty is well handicapped but rarely wins and Florentino looks a bigger danger.

RICHARD EVANS

NEWMARKET

THUNDERER

2.05 Tregaron
2.35 Amrak Ajeeb
3.10 Groom's Gordon
3.40 English Invader
4.15 Rebecca Sharp
4.45 Jewel
5.20 Water Flower

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.35 ALI-ROYAL.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.35 ALI-ROYAL (nap). 4.15 Rebecca Sharp. 4.45 Pacifica.

GOING: GOOD — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.05 RACING & FOOTBALL OUTLOOK RATED HANDICAP (£7,976: 7f) (18 runners)

C4

101	(10)	0525-33	KING OF PERU 16 (C,D,BF,F,G) (L Fust) A Jarvis 4-9-7	W J O'Connor	95
102	(13)	200026-	MADLY SHARP 174 (CD,F,G) (Lord Swaythling) J Watts 5-9-7	Pat Eddery	97
103	(6)	610060-	EMERGING MARKET 194 (F) (P Wroughton) J Dunlop 5-9-6	K Darley	93
104	(5)	442060-	CYRANO'S LAD 179 (CD,F,G) (M Foulger) C Dwyer 8-9-5	K Fallon	98
105	(15)	540022-	HOW LONG 165 (D,F) (M Botta) L Cumani 4-9-5	L Dettori	91
106	(1)	101100-	CONCER UN 179 (D,F,G,S) (Miss L Ward) S Williams 5-9-3	W R Swinburn	91
107	(3)	00-1202	NEW CENTURY 4 (D,F,G) (A Bloodstock) D Nicholls 5-8-13	Alex Greaves	[illegible]
108	(8)	540661-	PRENDS CA 194 (C,D,F,G,S) (B Bull) W Muir 4-8-12	Dane O'Neill	95
109	(17)	00015-0	HIGHBORN 7 (CD,F,G) (Yorkshire Racing Club) P Felgate 8-8-12	R Cochrane	98
110	(9)	456100-	BABSY BABE 194 (F,G) (Mrs C Bloom) J Quinn 4-8-11	M J Kinane	93
111	(18)	105030-	SASEEDO 179 (CD,F,G) (S Fustok) W O'Gorman 7-8-11	Emma O'Gorman	96
112	(16)	151034-	TREGARON 237 (F) (D Helin Jones) R Akehurst 6-8-11	T Quinn	93
113	(4)	030064-	WILD RICE 179 (D,F,G) (A Oppenheimer) G Wragg 5-8-10	M Hills	98
114	(12)	4043-20	DEFINED FEATURE 25 (F) (D Johnson) J Scargill 4-8-9	M Roberts	97
115	(11)	250550-	CHICKAWICKA 21J (D,F,G,S) (Merthyr Auctions) B Palling 6-8-6	T Sprake	96
116	(14)	0013-0	PUSEY STREET GIRL 25 (D,G) (C Marks) M Bosley 4-8-6	Aimee Cook (5)	97
117	(7)	5620-00	PENGAMON 4 (F,G) (Mrs A Smallman) H Collingridge 5-8-4	J Quinn	90
118	(2)	234-140	ZURS 26 (G) (N Dearman) Miss G Kelleway 4-8-4	Angela Gallimore (7)	90

Long handicap: Pengamon 8-1, Zurs 7-13.

BETTING: 6-1 Tregaron, 7-1 Madly Sharp, New Century, 8-1 How Long, 10-1 Concer Un, Highborn, Wild Rice, 12-1 Emerging Market, 14-1 Cyrano's Lad, King Of Peru, Saseedo, 16-1 others.

1996: TARAWA 4-9-7 R Hughes (10-1) N Callaghan 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

KING OF PERU 8½l 3rd of 8 to Russian Music in conditions race at Warwick (7f, good to firm). HOW LONG 1¼l 2nd of 8 to Saheeel in conditions race here (6f, good). NEW CENTURY head 2nd of 11 to Hal's Pal in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 100yd). PRENDS CA beat Bajan Rose neck in 9-runner handicap here (6f, good to firm) with DEFINED FEATURE (8lb better off) about 3l 3rd and BABSY BABE (8lb better off) 7½l 7th. BABSY BABE beat Splicing 1l in 7-runner handicap at Haydock (6f, good), Jul 96.
Selection: KING OF PERU

2.35 EARL OF SEFTON STAKES (Group III: £19,188: 1m 1f) (11 runners)

C4

201	(7)	154302-	RESTRUCTURE 195 (CD,F,G) (M Myers) Mrs J Cecil 5-8-13	Paul Eddery	96
202	(8)	022030-	ACHARNE 157 (S) (Parrot Racing) C Brittain 4-8-10	B Doyle	88
203	(6)	502211-	ALI-ROYAL 165 (C,G,S) (Greenbay Stables) H Cecil 4-8-10	K Fallon	[illegible]
204	(10)	01016-4	AMRAK AJEEB 27 (F,G,S) (A Merza) B Hanbury 5-8-10	M Rimmer	91
205	(5)	231530-	BEHAVIOUR 180 (F) (J Stone) Mrs J Cecil 5-8-10	J Reid	83
206	(11)	02144-3	DREAMS END 11J (C,D,G,S) (T Price) P Bowen 9-8-10	R Cochrane	84
207	(3)	118843-	FARASAN 214 (C,F,G) (A Faisal) H Cecil 4-8-10	M J Kinane	89
208	(2)	323012-	PRINCE BABAR 165 (G) (G Pritchard-Gordon) J Banks 6-8-10	J Stack	85
209	(1)	3/2-	ROCKY OASIS 323 (M al-Maktoum) M Stoute 4-8-10	T Quinn	72
210	(9)	2320-01	RUSSIAN MUSIC 15 (B,F) (Seventh Heaven) Miss G Kelleway 4-8-10	L Dettori	90
211	(4)	2113-	WIXIM 326 (F) (K Abdulla) R Charlton 4-8-10	Pat Eddery	85

BETTING: 7-2 Wixim, 9-2 Farasan, 5-1 Ali-Royal, 6-1 Restructure, Rocky Oasis, 8-1 Acharne, 10-1 Amrak Ajeeb, 12-1 Russian Music, 16-1 Prince Babar, 20-1 others.

1996: LUSO 4-9-4 M J Kinane (14-1) C Brittain 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

RESTRUCTURE 1¼l 2nd of 9 to Yeast in listed race here (1m, good to firm).
ALI-ROYAL beat Nijo 1¼l in 8-runner listed race here (1m, good). AMRAK AJEEB about 4l 4th of 6 to Canyon Creek in listed race at Doncaster (1m, good to firm). FARASAN 9l 3rd of 4 to Singspiel in group III Westminster Taxi Insurance Select Stakes at Goodwood (1m 2l, good to firm). PRINCE BABAR neck 2nd of 26 to Sallan in handicap here (1m, good) with DREAMS END (16lb worse off) about 1¾l 4th. RUSSIAN MUSIC beat Caramba 3½l in 8-runner conditions race at Warwick (7f, good to firm).
Selection: RUSSIAN MUSIC

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B Palling	3	10	30.0	Pat Eddery	99	477	20.8
H Cecil	58	237	24.5	W R Swinburn	44	305	14.4
R Charlton	18	84	21.4	L Dettori	66	465	14.2
J Watts	6	40	15.0	M J Kinane	17	123	13.8

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 . B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.05 N G K SPARK PLUGS EUROPEAN FREE HANDICAP (Listed race: 3-Y-O: £16,280: 7f) (11 runners)

C4

301	(6)	32124-	REFERENDUM 185 (G) (Highclere Racing) G Lewis 9-7	Paul Eddery	98
302	(5)	140215-	PROUD NATIVE 158 (F,G) (L Fust) A Jarvis 9-7	W J O'Connor	95
303	(7)	114016-	ANDREYEV 174 (D,F,G,S) (J Palmer-Brown) R Hannon 9-4	M J Kinane	97
304	(3)	513-	HIDDEN MEADOW 174 (G) (G Strawbridge) I Balding 9-3	L Dettori	96
305	(2)	01140-	RICH GROUND 195 (C,F,G) (Mrs J Vickers) J Bethell 9-3	J Reid	93
306	(11)	132-	MUKADDAR 197 (G) (H al-Maktoum) C Benstead 9-2	R Cochrane	98
307	(8)	212-	JUWWI 280 (F) (H al-Maktoum) W Hern 9-2	R Hills	95
308	(9)	422643-	OMAHA CITY 172 (F) (B Gubby) B Gubby 9-2	A Clark	94
309	(1)	115242-	NIGRASINE 181 (F) (M Gleason) J Eyre 9-0	D McKeown	[illegible]
310	(4)	210434-	GRANNY'S PET 186 (G) (Mrs D Arbib) P Cole 9-0	T Quinn	98
311	(10)	41140-2	GROOM'S GORDON 18 (D,F,G) (Mrs H Focke) J Dunlop 8-13	Pat Eddery	94

BETTING: 9-4 Referendum, 5-1 Proud Native, Hidden Meadow, 7-1 Andreyev, 8-1 Rich Ground, 9-1 Juwwi, 10-1 Groom's Gordon, 12-1 others

1996: CAYMAN KAI 9-7 Pat Eddery (7-2 fav) R Hannon 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

REFERENDUM about 6l 4th of 9 to Revoque in group I Grand Criterium at Longchamp (1m, good). PROUD NATIVE about 4½l 5th of 8 to Deadly Dudley in group II Criterium Des Deux Ans at Evry (6f 110yd, soft). ANDREYEV beat Dacoit 3½l in 6-runner conditions race at Ascot (7f, good) with GRANNY'S PET (6lb better off) about 7½l 4th. RICH GROUND beat JUWWI (1lb better off) head in 9-runner group II July Stakes here (6f, good) on penultimate start. GRANNY'S PET about 2l 4th of 5 to Vax Star in listed race at Sandown (5f, good). GROOM'S GORDON 4l 2nd of 7 to Pelham in listed race at Kempton (1m, good).
Selection: ANDREYEV

3.40 GREENE KING HANDICAP (£6,116: 1m 4f) (18 runners)

C4

401	(16)	14030-5	SONG OF THE SWORD 18 (D,F) J Old 4-9-11	W R Swinburn	87
402	(15)	013-	CLASSIC FIND 314 (F) (Classic Bloodstock) I Campbell 4-9-8	R Price	93
403	(10)	1001-04	HAZARD A GUESS 16 (D,F,G,S) (Consultco) D Nicholls 7-9-7	Alex Greaves	96
404	(14)	311223-	ANGUS-G 193 (C,F) (W Ginzel) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-6	K Darley	91
405	(12)	010002-	TRACEABILITY 162 (C,F,G,S) (J Lovell) S Williams 4-9-4	K Fallon	91
406	(7)	05540-0	REMAADI SUN 16 (D,F) (T Barker) M Usher 5-9-2	R Street	91
407	(11)	5/3-4	MUKHLLES 13 (Amorex Ltd) Bob Jones 4-9-2	N Day	89
408	(8)	001-211	ALBAHA 42 (D,G) (U K Packaging) J Banks 4-8-2	R Mullen (5)	[illegible]
409	(1)	224221-	TOTEM DANCER 174 (G) (Diamond Racing) J Eyre 4-9-2	R Lappin	89
410	(9)	65105-4	AL'S ALIBI 18 (D,S) (Sussex Stud) W Muir 4-8-13	J Reid	85
411	(4)	134114	ENGLISH INVADER 18 (D,G,S) (J Purcell) C Dwyer 6-8-13	L Dettori	87
412	(6)	60-0401	AT LIBERTY 20 (D,F,G) (B Adams) R Hannon 5-8-13	Dane O'Neill	90
413	(2)	001316-	FLORENTINO 162 (F,G) (Lady Harrison) B Hills 4-8-9	M Hills	92
414	(3)	0/51000-	REIMEI 85J (CD,F,G) (I Goldsmith) R Akehurst 8-8-6	T Quinn	88
415	(13)	00400-0	BOWLED OVER 16 (G) (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 4-8-6	M Roberts	98
416	(17)	1-55323	PRINCE DANZIG 20 (D,F,G) (A Ulrick) D Murray Smith 6-8-0	R Ffrench (5)	90
417	(18)	000-140	TAWAFEK 27 (G) (T Shepherd) S Dow 4-7-13	J Quinn	84
418	(5)	4-21214	GALAPINO 7 (D,BF,F,G) (N Dearman) Miss G Kelleway 4-7-10	G Bardwell	87

Long handicap: Galapino 7-6

BETTING: 3-1 Angus-G, 5-1 Hazard A Guess, 6-1 Albaha, 8-1 Totem Dancer, 10-1 At Liberty, 12-1 Galapino, 14-1 Prince Danzig, 16-1 English Invader, 20-1 others

1996: PROGRESSION 5-8-7 M Baird (9-1) C Murray 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

CLASSIC FIND about 2½l 3rd of 7 to Harbour Dues in handicap at Goodwood (1m 4f, good to firm). ANGUS-G 5l 3rd of 38 to Clifton Fox in handicap at Newmarket (1m 1f, good to firm). REMAADI SUN 9l 4th of 12 to Kutta in handicap at Newbury (1m 5f 61yd, good to firm) with BOWLED OVER (4lb worse off) 46l 11th. ALBAHA beat Major Change ¾l in 8-runner handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 4f). FLORENTINO beat Classic Defence 1¼l in 6-runner handicap at Bath (1m 2f, good to firm). GALAPINO best effort beat Raffles Rooster 1l in 24-runner handicap at Doncaster (1m 4f, good to firm) on penultimate start.
Selection: REMAADI SUN

4.15 GEOFFREY BARLING MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (3-Y-O: £4,581: 7f) (12 runners)

501	(2)		CHANGE FOR A BUCK (Buckram Oak) H Cecil 8-11	K Fallon	–
502	(10)	3-	DELILAH 200 (Highclere Racing) M Stoute 8-11	W R Swinburn	[illegible]
503	(5)		DELLUA (K Affara) R Guest 8-11	J Reid	–
504	(3)		FONTEYN (R Collins) A Stewart 8-11	M Roberts	–
505	(9)	6-	GINGERSNAP 165 (T Holland-Martin) H Cecil 8-11	A McGlone	92
506	(8)		GOING GREEN (W Gredley) J Fanshawe 8-11	Pat Eddery	–
507	(11)		KAZIRANGA (Sheikh Mohammed) L Cumani 8-11	R Ffrench (5)	–
508	(1)	0-	MISTY RAIN 207 (R Richards) B Hills 8-11	J D Smith (3)	–
509	(4)	4	PERLETHORPE 20 (Miss S Farr) M Bell 8-11	L Dettori	77
510	(7)	2-	REBECCA SHARP 165 (A Oppenheimer) G Wragg 8-11	M Hills	98
511	(12)	0-	SHARKIYAH 165 (H al-Maktoum) R Armstrong 8-11	R Hills	89
512	(6)	0063-	SOURA 111 (L Hurley) P Kelleway 8-11	D R McCabe	74

BETTING: 11-4 Delilah, 100-30 Rebecca Sharp, 5-1 Change For A Buck, 11-2 Gingersnap, 8-1 Kaziranga, 8-1 Sharkiyah, 10-1 others.

1996: TAWAADED 8-11 R Hills (33-1) P Walwyn 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

DELILAH about 1¼l 3rd of 12 to River Usk in maiden at Haydock (7f, good). MISTY RAIN 10l 11th of 24 to Speedball in maiden at Newbury (6f, good to firm).
PERLETHORPE 12½l 4th of 8 to Dust Dancer in maiden at Leicester (7f, good to firm). REBECCA SHARP 1¼l 2nd of 23 to Palisade in maiden over course and distance (good) with GINGERSNAP about 4¼l 6th and SHARKIYAH 5½l 8th. SOURA 14l 3rd of 4 to Effervescence in maiden at Lingfield (aw, 7f).
Selection: REBECCA SHARP

4.45 N G K SPARK PLUGS BARTLOW MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,269: 5f) (9 runners)

601	(4)		CLOUDBERRY (Mrs D Coker) B Meehan 8-11	B Doyle	–
602	(6)		COMPOSITION (S Manana) M Jarvis 8-11	R Cochrane	–
603	(1)	54	DAYS OF GRACE 17 (BF) (S Bayless) M Meade 8-11	J Reid	[illegible]
604	(2)	5	GOING PLACES 16 (K Ivory) K Ivory 8-11	Martin Dwyer (3)	94
605	(3)		JEWEL (Lady Tennant) R Hannon 8-11	Pat Eddery	–
606	(8)		KILCORA (A Haloute) C Dwyer 8-11	K Fallon	–
607	(5)	2	PACIFICA 18 (T Wells) R Boss 8-11	L Dettori	95
608	(9)		SUMMER DAY BLUES (D Crichton-Watt) C Murray 8-11	D McKeown	–
609	(7)		TINOS ISLAND (A Michael) M Tompkins 8-11	W R Swinburn	–

BETTING: 11-4 Pacifica, 7-2 Jewel, 5-1 Days Of Grace, 6-1 Cloudberry, 8-1 Composition, Tinos Island, 10-1 Going Places, 12-1 others.

1996: CARMINE LAKE 8-11 J Reid (1-2 fav) P Chapple-Hyam 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

DAYS OF GRACE ¾l 4th to Bannigham Blade in maiden at Lingfield (5f, firm). GOING PLACES 3¼l 5th to Vax Rapide in maiden at Warwick (5f, good to firm). PACIFICA 1¼l 2nd to Risky Whisky in maiden at Haydock (5f, soft).
Selection: PACIFICA (nap)

5.20 WOOD DITTON STAKES (3-Y-O: £4,932: 1m) (20 runners)

1	(5)	ALFANNAN (A al-Maktoum) J Gosden 9-0	L Dettori	–
2	(20)	BEHIND THE SCENES (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 9-0	D McKeown	–
3	(7)	BIG TARGET (K Maeda) M Stoute 9-0	K Bradshaw	–
4	(18)	BUTRINTO (Lady Rothschild) W Hern 9-0	T Sprake	–
5	(14)	COBLE (R Hollingsworth) B Hills 9-0	R Hills	–
6	(15)	DARCY (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 9-0	W R Swinburn	–
7	(1)	DOKOS (Marchos Family) H Cecil 9-0	K Fallon	–
8	(19)	GO HENCE (P Burrell) W Jarvis 9-0	R Cochrane	–
9	(11)	GRAND HOTEL (New Friends) P Harris 9-0	A Clark	–
10	(9)	LORD EUROLINK (Eurolink Group) J Dunlop 9-0	T Quinn	–
11	(17)	PATRIOT GAMES (B Sellers) M Stoute 9-0	J Reid	–
12	(3)	PRINCE OF BHUTAN (Lucayan Stud) R Hannon 9-0	Dane O'Neill	–
13	(6)	RATB (Gravy Boys) S Dow 9-0	M Roberts	–
14	(10)	REGGIE BUCK (Lord De La Warr) L Cumani 9-0	R Ffrench (5)	–
15	(16)	SEQUOIA PRINCE (T Neill) M Bell 9-0	Paul Eddery	–
16	(12)	THE PRINCE (I MacNicol) G Wragg 9-0	M Hills	–
17	(4)	WARNINGFORD (Barford Bloodstock) J Fanshawe 9-0	D Harrison	–
18	(13)	GEORGIA VENTURE (F Chao) S Woods 8-9	C Webb (7)	–
19	(8)	LIGHTEN UP (S Manana) C Brittain 8-9	B Doyle	–
20	(2)	WATER FLOWER (W Gredley) J Fanshawe 8-9	Pat Eddery	–

BETTING: 11-4 Alfannan, 4-1 Dokos, 6-1 Darcy, 8-1 Big Target, Patriot Games, Reggie Buck, 10-1 Lord Eurolink, 16-1 others

1996: FARASAN 9-0 G Carter (16-1) H Cecil 20 ran

PONTEFRACT

THUNDERER

2.45 Bernardo Bellotto. 3.20 Dayville. 3.50 Red Guard. 4.25 Loch Style. 5.00 Brave Kris. 5.30 Tallulah Belle.

GOING: FIRM (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) — SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.45 STRAWBERRY HILL MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,879: 5f) (14 runners)

1	22	BERNARDO BELLOTTO 8 (BF) M Bell 9-0	M Fenton 7
2	0	BURNT YATES 7 M W Easterby 9-0	T Lucas 3
3		COLLACAR Mrs N Macauley 9-0	C Teague (3) 9
4	0	DONNA'S DOUBLE 25 N Tinkler 9-0	Kim Tinkler 11
5	2	MAMMA'S BOY 14 J Berry 9-0	G Carter 1
6		THE BOY JOHN R Hannon 9-0	R Hughes 10
7	04	YORKIES BOY 18 B McMahon 9-0	L Newton 6
8	0	YOUNG BIMR 18 P Evans 9-0	J F Egan 2
9		CANDY TWIST Ronald Thompson 8-9	J Bramhill (5) 8
10	2	CARAMBO 16 J Eyre 8-9	T Williams 4
11		LEATHER AND SCRIM D Nicholls 8-9	Iona Wands (7) 5

9-4 Bernardo Bellotto, 3-1 The Boy John, 4-1 Mamma's Boy, 5-1 Carambo, 10-1 Leather And Scrim, 14-1 Donna's Double, 16-1 Burnt Yates, 20-1 others.

3.20 RACING CHANNEL FILLIES HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £5,390: 6f) (13)

1	312-	DAYVILLE 201 (D,G) J Berry 9-7	J Weaver 2
2	566-	SONG MIST 197 (D,F) P Cole 9-5	David O'Neill (7) 7
3	004-	MIDNIGHT SHIFT 170 R Guest 9-5	P Bloomfield 8
4	300-	ONEKNIGHT WITH YOU 172 M Fetherston-Godley 9-2	A Culhane 4
5	01-	MORNING STAR 169 (F) W McKeown 9-2	J Carroll 9
6	30-0	EXPRESS GIRL 22 (S) D Moffatt 9-1	Darren Moffatt (3) 12
7	3010	LA DOLCE VITA 25 (G) T Barron 9-0	Victoria Appleby (7) 3
8	00-0	FALLS O'MONESS 18 K Burke 9-0	D R McCabe 5
9	34-3	GOPI 20 R Hannon 8-11	R Hughes 6
10	6-02	IVORY DAWN 18 K Ivory 8-11	G Duffield 10
11	13-3	SOVIET LADY 21 (G) J Eyre 8-4	T Williams 1
12	50-3	BOLD GAYLE 16 Mrs J Ramsden 8-4	J Fortune 13
13	6502	RATIVE THATCH 14 W G M Turner 7-10	J Bramhill (5) 11

6-1 Gopi, 7-1 Dayville, Bold Gayle, Ivory Dawn, 8-1 Song Mist, 10-1 others.

3.50 LADY BALK MAIDEN STAKES (£3,745: 1m 2f 6yd) (10)

1	40	DURAID 7 Denys Smith 5-9-13	A Culhane 9
2		MR MONTAGUE 35J T Donnelly 5-9-13	J Fanning 2
3	0-	NEEDWOOD LEGEND 189 B Morgan 4-9-13	S Whitworth 3
4		DARIO'S GIRL D Moffatt 4-9-8	Darren Moffatt (3) 4
5	6-6	ON THE GREEN 78 A Hide 4-9-8	D Biggs 8
6	222-	JAUNTY JACK 167 L Cumani 3-8-10	O Urbina 7
7	26-	NORDIC CREST 174 P Harris 3-8-10	G Duffield 6
8	34-0	RED GUARD 18 G Wragg 3-8-10	R Hughes 5
9	2-	KYLE RHEA 169 H Cecil 3-8-5	W Ryan 10
10	3	LONDON'S HEART 13 P Cole 3-8-5	C Rutter 1

7-4 Jaunty Jack, 3-1 Kyle Rhea, 4-1 Red Guard, 7-1 London's Heart, 8-1 others

4.25 OSSETT SELLING HANDICAP (£2,805: 1m 4yd) (20)

1	00-0	WILLIE MILES 16 D Chapman 4-9-11	N Connorton 3
2	00-4	MUBARIZ 20 C Smith 5-9-8	D O'Donohoe (3) 1
3	200-	DANBISTAR 200 (G) P Evans 5-9-6	J F Egan 16
4	0052	LOCH STYLE 21 (CD,F,G) R Hollinshead 4-9-4	F Lynch (3) 14
5	0304	DICTATION 21 J J O'Neill 5-9-4	W Ryan 2
6	6520	MAJOR MOUSE 9 (D,F,G) W Haigh 9-9-4	S Whitworth 8
7	2544	SHERAZ 16 (B,D,G) N Tinkler 5-9-2	Kim Tinkler 12
8	0300	BALLET DE COUR 20 T Etherington 4-9-2	G Parkin (5) 20
9	006/	SATURIBA 40J J A Harris 4-9-7	J Carroll 10
10	504-	JAVA RED 195J (D,G) J Fitzgerald 5-9-1	J Fortune 19
11	-043	HARRY'S TREAT 20 J Eyre 5-8-13	T Williams 9
12	3004	GOLD LANCE 53 R O'Sullivan 4-8-13	R Hughes 4
13	0000	MONIS 30 (F) Ronald Thompson 6-8-11	J Bramhill (5) 7
14	46-0	YUPPY GIRL 30 (V) J Wilson 4-8-11	J Weaver 15
15	004-	ASTERIX 242J (B,D,F,G) J Bradley 9-8-10	L Charnock 11
16	6-64	SQUARE MILE MISS 53 P Howling 4-8-8	F Norton 6
17	0345	DAVID JAMES' GIRL 30 (D,BF,G,S) A Bailey 5-8-8	D Wright 13
18	6-50	RAFTER-J B (CD,G,S) J A Harris 6-8-8	T G McLaughlin 17
19	00-0	MISS CAROTTENE 8 (G) M Ryan 4-8-7	G Carter 18
20	5004	BOLD HABIT 2 (D,F,G) J Pearce 12-8-5	C Teague (3) 5

5-1 Harry's Treat, 6-1 Loch Style, 8-1 Bold Habit, Sheraz, 10-1 Dictation, Java Red, David James' Girl, 12-1 others

5.00 WEFT GATE LIMITED STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,583: 1m 4yd) (11)

1	1	CAPTAIN SCOTT 30 (D,G) J Glover 8-13	G Carter 1
2	-068	I CAN'T REMEMBER 4 (D,F,G,S) P Evans 8-13	J F Egan 9
3	31-	OVER TO YOU 174 (D,G) E Dunlop 8-13	D O'Donohoe (3) 11
4	1-	FUTURE PERFECT 192 (S) P Cole 8-11	C Rutter 6
5	245-	INDIAN BLAZE 192 P Harris 8-11	G Duffield 8
6	-034	MILJOVA 5 (F) R Hollinshead 8-11	F Lynch (3) 10
7	313-	RAPIER 203 (D,F) R Hannon 8-11	R Hughes 3
8	31-	RECHULLIN 142 (G) D Loder 8-10	D R McCabe 2
9	023-	BRAVE KRIS 173 L Cumani 8-8	O Urbina 7
10	413-	TELEMANIA 197 (F) W Haggas 8-8	J Carroll 4
11	136-	VAGABOND CHANTEUSE 216 (G) T Etherington 8-8	L Charnock 5

7-2 Over To You, 5-1 Rechullin, 6-1 Rapier, 7-1 Captain Scott, Brave Kris, 8-1 Telemania, 10-1 Future Perfect, 12-1 others

5.30 GARFORTH HANDICAP (£3,145: 1m 2f) (13)

1	0605	SCENICRIS 11 (S) R Hollinshead 4-9-13	F Lynch (3) 7
2	50-1	KATHRYN'S PET 20 (S) Mrs M Reveley 4-9-9	A Culhane 1
3	63-4	LEIF THE LUCKY 14 (C,G,S) Miss S Hall 8-9-7	J Fortune 10
4	404/	ZINGIBAR 75J (F) J Bradley 5-9-7	D Sweeney (5) 5
5	5336	TALLULAH BELLE 12 (D,G) N Littmoden 4-9-5	T G McLaughlin 8
6	00-2	JEAN PIERRE 11 J Pearce 4-9-4	J Weaver 2
7	0306	FATHER DAN 21 (D,F,G) Miss G Kelleway 8-9-1	G Duffield 6
8	4-31	PENDOLINO 7 (F,G) M Brittain 6-8-4 (5ex)	G Carter 4
9	000-	BOLD TOP 88J (B) B Rothwell 5-8-0	J Bramhill (5) 9
10	0/05	RINUS MAGIC 32 E Alston 4-7-11	L Charnock 12
11	-050	MAY KING MAYHEM 15 Mrs A King 4-7-11	N Adams 11
12	6-00	NOBBY BARNES 22 (F,G) E Incisa 8-7-10	Kim Tinkler 13
13	00-5	SHAMOKIN 22 F Watson 5-7-10	F Norton 3

3-1 Jean Pierre, 7-2 Kathryn's Pet, 7-1 Pendolino, 8-1 Leif The Lucky, Tallulah Belle, Scenicris, 10-1 Father Dan, 12-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Cheltenham: 5.10 Shahrani. Pontefract: 4.25 Yuppy Girl.

CHELTENHAM

THUNDERER

2.20 Talathath. 2.55 Seek The Faith. 3.30 HENRIETTA HOWARD (nap). 4.00 Double Silk. 4.35 Greenback. 5.10 Mystic Hill.

Carl Evans: 4.00 Double Silk.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — SIS

2.20 NEW BARN LANE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,957: 2m 1f) (6 runners)

1	3214	TALATHATH 25 (G) D Nicholson 5-11-5	R Johnson	[illegible]
2		ALLEZ CYRANO 47F O O'Neill 6-11-0	D Leahy	–
3		SAPPHIRE SON 5F P Clarke 5-11-0	B Fenton	–
4	P1	KING OF SPARTA 15 (F) O Sherwood 4-10-13	J Osborne	76
5	2	DISTANT STORM 29 B Llewellyn 4-10-9	V Slattery	71
6	6	DUBAI DOLLY 36 J Mullins 4-10-3	S Curran	73

11-10 Talathath, 5-4 King Of Sparta, 10-1 Distant Storm, 12-1 others

2.55 HOLMAN CUP HANDICAP CHASE (£5,121: 2m 110yd) (6)

1	13FU	NEWLANDS-GENERAL 16 (D,F,G,S) P Nicholls 11-11-10	P Hide	96
2	-360	PIMBERLEY PLACE 34 (G,S) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-10	C Llewellyn	90
3	5-52	SEEK THE FAITH 74 (D,S) M Sheppard 8-11-2	R Dunwoody	[illegible]
4	5411	RED BEAN 22 (D,F,G,S) K Vincent 9-10-4	R Johnson	92
5	685U	NORTHERN OPTIMIST 22 (D,F,G) B Llewellyn 9-10-0	N Williamson	90
6	5501	RUSTIC GENT 16 (D,F,S) D Burchell 9-10-0	D J Burchell	84

7-4 Pimberley Place, 2-1 Newlands-General, 3-1 Seek The Faith, 8-1 Red Bean, 20-1 Northern Optimist, 25-1 Rustic Gent.

3.30 LYNX EXPRESS HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,142: 2m 5f 110yd) (9)

1	2312	COURBARIL 12 (B,CD,F,G) M Pipe 5-11-10	A P McCoy	94
2	4110	HENRIETTA HOWARD 36 (D,F,G,S) Mrs D Haine 7-11-7	J F Titley	[illegible]
3	2U-B	SO PROUD 46 (F,S) Mrs A Perrett 12-11-6	C Maude	96
4	3041	THE TOISEACH 28 (V,D,F,S) J Fanshawe 6-11-0	J Osborne	98
5	14P1	EL DON 7 (F,G) M Ryan 5-10-10 (5ex)	K Gaule	95
6	142F	SANTELLA BOY 16 (B,BF,F) C Mann 5-10-6	J Railton	97
7	1312	HOLY JOE 16 (D,F,G,S) D Burchell 15-10-2	D J Burchell	98
8	0120	SWING QUARTET 16 (BF,G) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-0	C Llewellyn	97
9	5-50	NICKLE JOE 121 (F,G,S) M Tate 11-10-0	Mr O McPhail (7)	–

5-4 Courbaril, 5-1 The Toiseach, 6-1 Henrietta Howard, 7-1 El Don, 10-1 Santella Boy, 12-1 So Proud, 14-1 others

4.00 HOWARD E PERRY HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,801: 3m 2f 110yd) (8)

1	1-15	DOUBLE SILK 34 (CD,F,G,S) R Wilkins 13-12-7	E Williams (7)	[illegible]
2	1-33	YOUNG BRAVE 41 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs A Young 11-12-7	M G Miller (7)	87
3	-F51	IDIOTIC 15 (F,G,S) P Chamings 9-12-3	C Vigors (5)	91
4	1422	RUSTY BRIDGE 7 (BF,F,G,S) Mrs S Johnson 10-12-3	R Burton (7)	84
5	6421	SOME-TOY 7 (C,F,G,S) J Squire 11-12-3	Miss L Blackford (7)	85
6	-113	THE MALAKARMA 28 (C,D,F,G,S) Miss C Saunders 11-12-3	B Pollock (5)	90
7	-P21	JUPITER MOON 37 (F,G,S) Mrs C Hicks 8-12-0	J M Pritchard (7)	82
8	ROR1	L'UOMO PIU 13 (F,G,S) A Barrow 13-12-0	O McPhail (7)	77

3-1 Double Silk, 4-1 The Malakarma, 9-2 Idiotic, 5-1 Young Brave, 6-1 others

4.35 BIRDLIP NOVICES CHASE (£3,397: 2m 5f) (4)

1	1331	GREENBACK 4 (F,G,S) P Hobbs 6-11-12	N Williamson	[illegible]
2	4/21	FORMAL INVITATION 16 (F) D Nicholson 8-11-8	R Johnson	74
3	3U01	WEE WINDY 25 (F,G,S) J Gifford 8-11-8	P Hide	88
4	PP33	PINOCCHIO 16 (F) D O'Brien 10-11-2	W Marston	57

5-4 Greenback, 6-4 Formal Invitation, 7-2 Wee Windy, 50-1 Pinocchio

5.10 CHELTENHAM SPONSORSHIP CLUB NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,996: 2m 5f 110yd) (13)

1	0343	SHAHRAM 14 (V,F,G) M Pipe 5-12-0	A P McCoy	93
2	6201	STORMYFAIRWEATHER 28 (D,F) N Henderson 5-11-8	M A Fitzgerald	87
3	2635	COLWALL 23 (D,F) Miss P Whittle 6-10-11	Mr J Goldstein (7)	84
4	1500	GLISTENING DAWN 83 (B,F,S) T Keddy 7-10-10	S McNeill	94
5	1465	MR CHRISTIE 18 (S) Miss L Siddall 5-10-10	A Thornton	96
6	0441	MYSTIC HILL 13 (F) R Frost 6-10-9	J Frost	93
7	01P4	EQUITY'S DARLING 32 (B,S) D O'Brien 5-10-7	P Hide	94
8	1230	PLINTH 182 (D,G) R Alner 6-10-4	N Williamson	90
9	1P25	HYLTERS CHANCE 150 (F) P Hobbs 6-10-2	L Harvey	96
10	533	SCENIC WATERS 16 N Twiston-Davies 5-10-0	C Llewellyn	[illegible]
11	01U0	KILLING TIME 41 (F,S) D Burchell 6-10-0	D J Burchell	98
12	000	CLASSIC MODEL 27 J Tuck 6-10-0	R Bellamy	–
13	3-04	GO FROLIC 16 Miss C Phillips 9-10-0	R Johnson	90

9-4 Stormyfairweather, 7-2 Scenic Waters, 7-1 Shahrani, 8-1 Mystic Hill, Mr Christie, 12-1 Plinth, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

CHELTENHAM: Trainers: R Wilkins, 5 winners from 7 runners, 71.4%; D Sherwood, 15 from 71, 21.1%; C Mann, 4 from 24, 16.7%. Jockeys: A P McCoy, 20 winners from 86 rides, 23.3%; N Williamson, 25 from 115, 21.7%; R Dunwoody, 43 from 231, 18.6%

PONTEFRACT: Trainers: H Cecil, 14 winners from 35 runners, 40.0%; P Cole, 5 from 13, 38.5%; J Pearce, 7 from 23, 30.4%. Jockeys: W Ryan, 18 winners from 82 rides, 22.0%; N Adams, 4 from 32, 12.5%; G Parkin, 3 from 26, 11.5%.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Newmarket

Going: good

2.05 (1m 4f) 1, Street General (K Fallon, 9-4 fav, Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Salameh (5-2); 3, Assured Gamble (12-1). 9 ran. 2l, sh hd. H Cecil. Tote: £2.70; £1.40, £1.20, £2.40. DF: £4.50. Trio: £28.90. CSF: £6.86. 2min 35.22sec.

2.35 (6f) 1, Monaassib (D O'Donohoe, 9-4 fav, Private Handicapper's top rating) 2, Easy Dollar (8-1); 3, Sylva Paradise (12-1). 8 ran. ½l, 1¼l. E Dunlop. Tote: £2.70; £1.60, £3.10, £1.80. DF: £19.00. CSF: £19.95. 1min 11.42sec. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

3.10 (7f) 1, REUNION (R Hills, 8-1); 2, Oh Nellie (Pat Eddery, 9-4 fav); 3, Elegant Warning (M Hills, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 15-2 Baked Alaska (6th), Open Credit, 8 Miss Sancerre (4th), 10 Dama Laura, 25 Ceerfilly Dancer, Connemara, Imperial Scholar (5th). 10 ran. 1l, 1½l, 3l, nk, 2½l. J Hills at Lambourn. Tote: £10.60; £2.40, £1.50, £2.00. DF: £19.20. Trio: £31.40. CSF: £24.05. 1min 25.28sec.

3.45 (7f) 1, Poteen (Pat Eddery, 1-3 fav); 2, Za-Im (100-30); 3, Sugarfoot (20-1). 5 ran. Nk, 5l. L Cumani. Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £1.20. DF: £1.30. CSF: £1.40. 1min 27.18sec.

4.15 (7f) 1, Shawaf (R Hills, 9-4); 2, Komi (16-1); 3, Damaway (7-4 fav). 12 ran. Nk, 2l. J Dunlop. Tote: £3.10; £1.50, £3.30, £1.40. DF: £60.20. Trio: £21.40. CSF: £38.17. 1min 27.31sec.

4.45 (7f) 1, Summer Queen (A Clark, 40-1); 2, Just Nick (14-1); 3, Blue Goblin (8-1); 4, Sleepless (8-1). Share Delight 5-1 fav. 20 ran. 1½l, ½l. S Woods. Tote: £186.50; £33.60, £3.60, £2.00, £1.70. DF: £266.30. Trio: £3,364.30 (part won; pool of £1,516.31 carried forward to 3.40 at Newmarket today). CSF: £514.20. Tricast: £4,581.20. 1min 27.45sec.

5.20 (1m 2f) 1, Kingfisher Mill (Pat Eddery, 3-1 fav); 2, Purist (6-1); 3, Monitor (6-1). 18 ran. 5l, ½l. Mrs J Cecil. Tote: £4.30; £1.70, £2.50, £3.00. DF: £20.70. Trio: £41.70. CSF: £19.26. 2min 07.90sec.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £10,231.44 carried forward to Newmarket today).

Placepot: £35.00. Quadpot: £13.20.

Cheltenham

Going: good to firm

2.20 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Pridwell (R Dunwoody, 1-8 fav); 2, Handy Lass (8-1). 2 ran. NR: Mithraic. 30l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.10.

2.55 (2m 5f ch) 1, Strong Promise (N Williamson, 4-5 fav); 2, Gales Cavalier (5-1); 3, Viking Flagship (2-1). 4 ran. 21l, 17l. G Hubbard. Tote: £1.90. DF: £2.50. CSF: £4.45.

3.30 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Sir Dante (D O'Sullivan, 5-1 jt-fav); 2, Silver Thyne (8-1); 3, Good Vibes (7-1). Fantasy Line 5-1 jt-fav (f). 9 ran. 14l, 3½l. R Rowe. Tote: £5.20; £1.80, £1.70, £2.00. DF: £17.10. Trio: £52.90. CSF: £31.52. Tricast: £189.87.

4.00 (3m 2f 110yd ch) 1, Le Meille (N Williamson, 7-1); 2, God Speed You (8-1); 3, Copper Mine (9-1). Denver Bay 5-1 jt-fav (pu). 10 ran. NR: Big Ben Dun. 1¼l, 3l. K Burke. Tote: £5.80; £1.40, £3.60, £3.30. DF: £58.70. Trio: £283.10. CSF: £56.85. Tricast: £467.74.

4.35 (2m 5f ch) 1, Boots N All (B Fenton, 9-2); 2, Decyborg (100-30); 3, Key To Moyade (10-1). Regal Aura 11-4 fav. 7 ran. 7l, 3l. G Balding. Tote: £5.10; £2.50, £2.20. DF: £6.40. CSF: £18.05.

5.10 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Chief Mouse (P Carberry, 7-2); 2, Sterling Fellow (12-1); 3, Arrogant Heir (3-1 fav). 8 ran. 1¼l, 17l. F Jordan. Tote: £3.10; £1.40, £4.30. DF: £24.20. CSF: £34.83.

Placepot: £123.30.

Quadpot: £129.30.

Exeter

Going: firm

2.10 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Major Dundee (A P McCoy, 4-5 fav); 2, Anna Soleil (11-10); 3, Royal Member (66-1). 4 ran. 2l, dist. M Pipe. Tote: £1.70. DF: £1.10. CSF: £1.86.

2.45 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, Spring To It (A P McCoy, Evens fav); 2, Jonjas Chudleigh (8-1); 3, Trust Deed (7-4). 4 ran. 9l, 22l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.70. DF: £5.10. CSF: £7.24.

3.20 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Northern Starlight (A P McCoy, 6-4 fav); 2, Kiwi Crystal (11-4); 3, Seveo (4-1). 5 ran. NR: Out Ranking. 5l, ½l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £1.60. DF: £3.40. CSF: £5.87.

3.50 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Country Lover (A P McCoy, 1-10 fav); 2, Tommy Cooper (9-1); 3, Carnival Clown (33-1). 5 ran. ½l, 13l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.10; £1.20, £1.10. DF: £1.80. CSF: £1.36.

4.25 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, Coolteen Hero (P Holley, 8-1); 2, Henley Regatta (9-1); 3, Mr Playfull (3-1). Pond House 2-1 fav. 8 ran. NR: Toomuch Toosoon. 3l, 12l. R Alner. Tote: £7.50; £1.80, £2.80, £1.10. DF: £17.30. Trio: £32.50. CSF: £70.20. Tricast: £244.90.

5.00 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Mrs Em (L Cummins, 9-4); 2, Time Leader (100-30); 3, Commanche Creek (2-1 fav). 8 ran. 8l, 4l. P Nicholls. Tote: £2.30; £1.40, £1.40, £1.00. DF: £3.70. CSF: £8.69. Tricast: £13.76.

Placepot: £13.80. Quadpot: £3.00.

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10/1	Concer Un	20/1	Defined Feature
10/1	Highborn	25/1	Chickawicka
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FLORA LONDON MARATHON

Runners up to 4 hours, 12 minutes, 49 secs

The Times continues its coverage of the 1997 Flora London Marathon with the names of the competitors who finished inside 4 hours, 12 minutes and 49 seconds. The results are provided by Unisys, official suppliers of computers to the race. The names and times of other finishers will be continued tomorrow.

Runners from the Sussex constabulary beat the heat in the showers during the marathon. Photograph: Alastair Grant / AP

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Some runners relied on their animal instincts to pass the test of endurance on Sunday

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14,101 D Mestrude 4:12:12; N Orgill 4:12:13; D Birch 4:12:13; T Vigors 4:12:13; B Moore 4:12:13; B Monkhouse 4:12:13; A Wright 4:12:14; J Wilson 4:12:14; A Evans 4:12:14; P Slater 4:12:14; M Ryan 4:12:15; A Smith 4:12:15; A Ridout 4:12:15; C Chisholm 4:12:15; M Jones 4:12:16; G McGuckin 4:12:16; C Watkin 4:12:16; G Pugh 4:12:16; J Tunnicliffe 4:12:16; S McCarthy 4:12:16; S Samuels 4:12:16; G Walters 4:12:16; L Green 4:12:16; J Stacey 4:12:16; B Thomas 4:12:16; B O'Sullivan 4:12:16; S Ward 4:12:17; D Lew 4:12:17; H Davies 4:12:17; M Gray 4:12:17; P McGill 4:12:17; S Williams 4:12:18; S Hay 4:12:18; S Wood 4:12:18; J Wolstencroft 4:12:18; P Cook 4:12:18; B Holliday 4:12:19; J Dyer 4:12:19; P Green 4:12:19; M Wallis 4:12:19; P Scott 4:12:20; D Kelly 4:12:20; R Hartley 4:12:21; P Carter 4:12:21; P Speakman 4:12:21; M Raftery 4:12:21; R Kendall 4:12:21; I Hird 4:12:22; K Lazarus 4:12:22; E Delaunay 4:12:23; W Robertson 4:12:23; E Barker 4:12:23; D Cox 4:12:23; B Golding 4:12:23; J Watt 4:12:24; R Splerzer 4:12:24; P Slater 4:12:24; D Khabaz 4:12:24; P Jamieson 4:12:25; D Huxter 4:12:26; I Cragg 4:12:26; B Miles 4:12:26; R Scott 4:12:26; J Cifuentes 4:12:26; S Denning 4:12:27; N Starr 4:12:27; J Warehand 4:12:27; J Phillips 4:12:27; M Maranta 4:12:28; S Burn 4:12:28; D Leese 4:12:28; T Ishibiki 4:12:28; A Bolner 4:12:29; S Shaw 4:12:29; A McQueen 4:12:29; O Gaubert 4:12:29; A Mowbray 4:12:30; P Cook 4:12:30; J Lavery 4:12:31; P Abbott 4:12:31; C Blanchard 4:12:32; S Shafiq 4:12:32; E Parks 4:12:33; M Garrett 4:12:33; S Hearne 4:12:33; M Brock 4:12:34; J Bell 4:12:34; G Weed 4:12:34; L Robb 4:12:34; R Billington 4:12:35; M Dyer 4:12:35; P Bates 4:12:36; G Warwick 4:12:36; B Gray 4:12:36; C James 4:12:36; T Gard 4:12:36; S Everett 4:12:37; T O'Reilly 4:12:37; R Barclay 4:12:37; M Carr 4:12:37

14,201 M Payton 4:12:38; G Cherry 4:12:38; W Belcher 4:12:38; A Bignell 4:12:38; D Jones 4:12:39; M Hughes 4:12:39; A Leigh 4:12:39; J Thoden Van Velzen 4:12:39; R Taylor 4:12:39; C Byrom 4:12:40; S Edge 4:12:40; C Bartlett 4:12:40; M King 4:12:40; J Goford 4:12:41; J Arkle 4:12:41; K Hutchinson 4:12:41; M Hodgson 4:12:41; M Homewood 4:12:41; E McKenney 4:12:42; S Hansford 4:12:42; J Vernon 4:12:42; G Kirk 4:12:42; K O'Connor 4:12:43; R Hayward 4:12:43; N Grace 4:12:43; M Nutburn 4:12:43; L Southiard 4:12:43; P Simpson 4:12:43; A Deignan 4:12:44; N Holland 4:12:44; S Bullock 4:12:44; G Thiry 4:12:44; V Howell 4:12:44; D Ellicott 4:12:44; P Fray 4:12:44; F Uff 4:12:44; T Commons 4:12:45; M Stanton 4:12:45; J Rutherford 4:12:45; I Wright 4:12:45; W Wright 4:12:45; N Weston 4:12:45; R Mullan 4:12:46; R Stephens 4:12:46; D Gabriel 4:12:46; J Dallinson 4:12:46; P Clayton 4:12:46; S Manning 4:12:47; S Spence 4:12:47; J Robinson 4:12:47; S Stone 4:12:47; G Burn 4:12:48; D Barnett 4:12:48; C Devlin 4:12:48; P Pierce 4:12:49; P Thomas 4:12:49; J Carvell 4:12:49; T Moehl 4:12:49

More finishers will appear tomorrow

Famous (6092055) 1.00 Crown Court 2.10 Good Troop (46602239) 2.35 Bonkers (3282177) 3.00 Gadget Boy (4526264) 3.30 … Madison … 7.00-8.00 Heartbreak High (9377468) 1.00am Disaster (1786307) 1.30-2.00 Beyond 2000 (7374712) The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

FOOTBALL

Liverpool embark on double mission

By Peter Ball and Russell Kempson

LIVERPOOL begin a programme of two matches in *four days tonight that* will go a long way to deciding their season. They meet Everton at Goodison Park tonight before Manchester United, the FA Carling Premiership champions, visit Anfield on Saturday. If they emerge with six points, Liverpool will be poised to win their first championship for seven years.

Ironically, Everton have proved the greater hurdle in recent years, *but that should* not be the case tonight, even though Everton ended their dismal run last Saturday by beating Tottenham Hotspur. Liverpool, though, know that they cannot afford to let derby passions nullify their obvious superiority.

"It's a must-win game," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said yesterday. "But we have got to go and earn it. We have to make sure we play as well as we can, but we also have to make sure that we match their determination."

There is a myth that derby games are great levellers, with quality counting for little. In fact, in their years of hegemony, Liverpool beat Everton as regularly as they beat everybody else. Their recent run of failure — they have not won a Merseyside derby for three years — testified simply to *their lack of championship* quality, and, in particular, their failure to match the hunger that Everton have shown.

Everton under Dave Watson are likely to be as aggressive as they were in the Joe Royle years, and Watson's relish for his first derby as caretaker manager was evident yesterday. "These are the games to play in, for atmosphere *and* for passion," he said. "They might be a bit frantic at times, but these are the big ones. I'm hoping that the atmosphere will carry our lads along."

Watson is all too aware of Robbie Fowler's potential to tilt the balance Liverpool's way. With a goal in each of the past three meetings, Fowler is beginning to have the same impact as Ian Rush, the leading scorer in the games between the clubs.

"Robbie was my player of the year," Watson said. *"You've got to be on your toes* for him all the time. When the ball is at a Liverpool defender's feet, Robbie is on the move. He'll be drifting away from you while you're watching the ball, and that's how he gets in on goal."

If he gets away from Watson, Fowler will also have to beat Southall, who adds to his own record by playing in his fortieth derby tonight. A clean *sheet would be a fitting way to* mark it.

Wimbledon attempt to salvage something from their season when they play Leeds United at Selhurst Park. They can still qualify for Europe, via a high finish in the Premiership, but will need to collect near-maximum points from their six matches.

Discounting their Coca-Cola Cup semi-final exit against Leicester City last month, on the away goals rule, Wimbledon's 3-0 FA Cup semi-final defeat by Chelsea on Sunday was their first in 15 outings in knockout competition this season.

Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, gleaned little satisfaction from the record, such was his initial disappointment, but he has yet to concede that the club's European target is unattainable.

"You never know," he said yesterday. "The season starts again for us, it has to. We still have six games to go and we have to treat it like another cup. I've asked so much of my players this season but now I've got to ask them for more."

Wimbledon lie in eighth place, seven points behind the sixth position — occupied, at present, by Sheffield Wednesday — that could be enough to gain entry to the Uefa Cup and give them a first taste of continental combat. On Saturday, they play Wednesday at Hillsborough. When Wimbledon won the FA Cup in 1988, they were denied their rightful place in the European Cup Winners' Cup by the post-Heysel ban on English clubs.

Newcastle United, fifth, and Chelsea, seventh, harbour similar yet more realistic European ambitions. They meet at St James' Park tonight, with Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, likely to rest several of Sunday's winning side.

Francis ends Limpar's stay

BIRMINGHAM City yesterday cancelled the contract of Anders Limpar, only three months after signing him from Everton for £100,000. The former Arsenal player was recently fined after failing to turn up for a reserve team match.

Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, said: "There was an element of risk when we signed Limpar. His ability was never in question but he has had one or two problems concerning commitment."

Limpar started only four matches for Birmingham, and failed to complete any of them.

A man marked by issues of morality

Richard Hobson on the doubts that will trouble Pontus Kaamark at Hillsborough tonight

ROLAND LEON

Kaamark has reservations about a role that is limited to trying to stifle the talents of the likes of Juninho

Pontus Kaamark did not need to walk far to exchange a word with Juninho at the end of the Coca-Cola Cup final. The pair stood cheek by jowl, just as they had for most of the preceding 120 minutes; the sublimely skilled Brazilian reduced to mortality by the close attention of his Scandinavian marker.

Juninho might have misconstrued Kaamark's proferred palm on the final whistle as an invitation to begin hand-to-hand combat, so little hospitality had his opponent shown during the game. He would not have been more wrong.

"I apologised to Juninho because he wanted to play football and I had stopped him," Kaamark said. "I said it was my job, because he is such a good player. He was very *nice about it, but I did not offer* to exchange shirts because he had probably seen mine enough already."

Kaamark, capped 27 times by Sweden, is a thoughtful man and questions the validity of the destructive role he was asked to fulfil. In the past, he has done a similar job for Gothenburg in the Champions' League and for his country, most notably when he *nullified Romario, another* Brazilian, during the group stages of the 1994 World Cup.

"If there is a guy who is an artist, then why take him away? People want to see good skills, but it is something I have to do sometimes because my team does not like to be fooled. Morally, I do not enjoy it. I believe players should be free because this is show-business." Did Gentile and Goicoechea ever go through such turmoil when they kicked Maradona black and blue?

Martin O'Neill, the Leicester City manager, was surprised to be told that Kaamark had referred to *morality in man-marking. It is* not a word often used in football.

Slightly ruffled, he intimated that the player would be asked to stick to Juninho again at Hillsborough in the replay tonight "as long as he does not find it too immoral to get on the team coach". More seriously, he added: "If Pontus has marked a player fairly, within the rules of the game, then I do not see the problem."

It is a huge game for Kaamark, who can expect a recall to the Sweden squad for the World Cup qualifying game against Scotland on April 30 if he performs even *reasonably well. His last ap*pearance for the national side was 19 months ago, shortly before he joined Leicester from IFK Gothenburg for £840,000. Before Wembley, little had gone right.

In his second appearance he twisted anterior cruciate ligaments, and he broke down again in a reserve game in January last year. Eleven months passed while he received treatment and underwent rehabilitation before his first-team comeback against Coventry City. A third mishap befell him five weeks later when he broke his arm during an FA Cup tie against Nor*wich City. He still wears a* light, plastic cast for matches.

He still believes that it is essential for Swedish players to move abroad if they wish to better themselves. The domestic league, dominated by a few clubs, hardly encourages personal improvement or generates wealth for its stars.

Even Gothenburg are resigned to selling their best players and, when they lost to Legia Warsaw in the preliminary round of the Champions' League in 1995, it was time for Kaamark to go. Gothenburg's failure put Sweden's ambitions back on a realistic level after the euphoria of 1994, *when* the national team reached the World Cup semi-finals before losing to Brazil. Decline, Kaamark believes, was inevitable. Yet he insists that his ambitions, while altered, have not dimmed.

"If Leicester win the Coca-Cola Cup, stay in the Premiership, and then Sweden beat Scotland with me in the side, then it would be worth missing more than a year with injury," he said. He can worry about the means to that end afterwards.

BASEBALL: EXPANDED AUDIENCE OFFERED IN BRITAIN BY GAME'S ATLANTIC CROSSING

Clubs make pitch for television converts

Nick Szczepanik *on spin-offs expected by the home runners as*

Channel 5 approaches first base in its Major League coverage

You have worn the cap, back to front or right way round; now watch, or, better still, play the game. With Channel 5 now showing Major League Baseball on a regular basis for the first time on British terrestrial television, the domestic game is getting ready to capitalise on what its organisers believe will be a tremendous upsurge of interest.

Not that the game does not already have a substantial foothold, which may surprise those who imagine that the only baseball played here goes on in Hyde Park be*tween teams of expats.* Membership of the British Baseball Federation (BBF), which was founded in 1890 and employs paid administrators, extends to 100 or so clubs such as the Hessle Apaches, *the Leeds Luddites* and the Hemel Red Sox, whose results and fixtures during the season that started last weekend will be broadcast in Channel 5's coverage of the American game.

Major League Baseball International has a London office and supports the Great Britain national team coach as well as a schools programme named Pitch, Hit, and Run, which will start after Easter. Clive Russell, its representative, is delighted with the Channel 5 plans.

"They have chosen baseball as their main sport," he said. "Having a terrestrial partner elevates the profile of Major League Baseball across the *country and, finding one like* Channel 5, which is prepared to invest in our other programmes like Pitch, Hit, and Run and Baseball Festival means we can bring all our assets together to the best advantage for everyone."

In addition to live coverage of two games per week during the regular season, Channel 5 is including a baseball coaching segment within *The Mag*, a youth magazine programme, and will inform viewers how and where they can play the game in their area. Members of the BBF will be manning telephones after each broadcast to let interested parties know where they can sign up.

"We have the network in place to take advantage of it," Kevin Macadam, of the BBF, said. "Our coaching and youth programmes mean that we already have good British players and the product is *entertaining*."

Although the BBF champions, Menwith Hill Pirates, from a US military base in Yorkshire, are all-American, British standards are high. In the European championships, held in Hull last summer, Great Britain won promotion to European pool A and several young players have attracted attention across the Atlantic.

Gavin Marshall, 18, a pitcher for Kingston Cobras and a Britain international, is attending San Joaquin Delta College, in California, where he is regarded as their No I pitcher. It is hoped that he will be the first player from British baseball to be drafted by a Major League club.

Also on the horizon is a British Super League. "The BBF's aim is to offer eight or ten franchises which existing teams, from our Premier League or not, will be able to *bid for." Macadam said.* "We will assist them with funding."

Successful bidders will be expected to have existing coaching and youth development programmes. If National Lottery and sponsorship backing can be achieved, the first Super League games will be played in 1998.

"We know they will need at least a year to get ready. Our biggest problem is space: it means encouraging a local council to give up one of its football pitches. Ice hockey and basketball were able to move straight into existing facilities. They have been able to expand quickly," Macadam added.

Sponsorship negotiations are proceeding with at least three blue-chip companies that, Macadam hopes, will see an opportunity to get in on the ground floor of a boom sport. "Baseball is the last of the big US sports to make a major play for the UK audience and it's the most family-oriented," he said.

"I'm not deluded enough to *think baseball will take over* from cricket," Macadam said, "but there is a niche in the market for eight or ten clubs with Minor League standard facilities. We aim to recreate the Minor League experience: a thousand spectators, with commentary. We know people will get hooked on it. We hope that Channel 5 will create the sort of interest that started in American football when Channel 4 began covering it."

BOXING

Jacobs can weigh up world title chances

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

GARY JACOBS'S world championship potential in his new division of light-middleweight will be examined tonight at York Hall, Bethnal Green. The former British, European and Commonwealth welterweight champion — who made a big impression last month by knocking out Jimmy Vincent *in the first round of his first* bout at light-middleweight, after an absence of nine months from the ring — meets Victor Fessetchko.

The 27-year-old Russian journeyman is a good test. He has had 32 contests, of which he has lost five. Jacobs was to have met Adrian Dodson, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) No 1, from Islington, last week, but when the bout fell through because of contractual problems, Fessetchko was called in.

As Fessetchko was stopped in three rounds by Laurent Boudouani, of France, the *World Boxing Association* champion, a good win tonight would tell us more about the Glaswegian's world title prospects. Jacobs's new promoters, Panix, who want to push him into a world title bout as soon as possible, believe that if he cannot beat Fessetchko, he might as well not harbour thoughts about boxing at world level.

Jacobs: facing stern test

On the same bill, Paul Lloyd, the Commonwealth bantamweight champion, form Ellesmere Port, makes the second defence of his title against Simphwe Pamana, of South Africa. Pamana is a former super-flyweight champion of his country, but does not appear to have the power to cause Lloyd too much trouble.

Michael Ayers, the British lightweight champion, has been given a revised date of May 31 and the new venue of Stuttgart for his WBO title bout with Artur Grigorian, the holder, who is a Russian *based in Germany. Grigorian* was forced to pull out of the original fight, scheduled for a week on Thursday in Hamburg, because he injured a shoulder in training.

The purse offer date for Lennox Lewis's mandatory defence of his World Boxing Council heavyweight title against Henry Akinwande, the former WBO champion, has been changed again to April 29 in Mexico City — the seventh different deadline.

IN BRIEF

McRae feels flat after puncture

COLIN McRAE, the overnight leader, slipped back to fourth place at the end of the second day of the Catalonia Rally. After maintaining his lead for three stages yesterday, the British driver had to stop to change a wheel after a puncture on special stage 11.

McRae's Subaru teammate, Piero Liatti, of Italy, shares first place with Tommi Makinen, the world champion from Finland, in a Mitsubishi. McRae is 3min 32sec behind.

Olympic Games: The British Olympic Association has named Simon Clegg as its new general secretary. Clegg, 38, who had been assistant general secretary since 1989, will also take charge of the Great Britain team at the winter Olympics in Japan next year.

Hockey: Cannock lost an appeal yesterday over a technical objection in their extra-time defeat by Teddington in the HA Cup quarter-final on Sunday. The semi-finals will now go ahead on April 27 as scheduled.

Curling: Scotland's men moved into fourth place in the round-robin rankings at the world championships in Berne yesterday, after beating Finland 9-1.

GOLF

Even more companies rise to the Challenge

By Mel Webb

AS THE cold of winter gives way to early spring, the thoughts of company executives are turning to their promotional and marketing plans for the summer. The thoughts of more than 300 of them have already turned, actually, in that they have registered their company golf days with *The Times*/Mees-Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge.

The amateur golf competition that makes players feel like professionals is in its fifth year, and yet again the number of entries at this stage of the season has risen by 20 per cent.

Last year, 1,000 businesses entered the Challenge, and such is its power in the corporate market that at least 1,200 entries can be expected in 1997. It is impressive by any standards, but when set against its already hugely successful background it is a remarkable fact that, year on year, it continues to grow at such a rate. As ever, word of mouth has been its biggest recruiting aid — once played in, the Challenge has a habit of creating a host of unpaid but willing salesmen.

It is not always valid to express things in terms of mere cash, but it is beyond question that the Challenge offers unbeatable value. When the competition was launched in 1993, entry cost £150. It remains the same today.

For that registration fee, companies receive personalised trophies, computer software to help with the smooth running of the day, a three-month subscription to *Golf World*, copies of *The Times* at the golf day, appearance in weekly fixtures and results columns in the newspaper, the chance to move forward into one of 14 regional finals and, finally, a place in the national final at the Hyatt La Manga Resort in November.

Players in the regional finals will play on some of the finest golf courses in the British Isles, venues such as the K Club, Dalmahoy, St Pierre and the Forest of Arden. And, if all that does not represent a bargain, then nothing does.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 10 Oakland 1; Seattle 6 Cleveland 1, Milwaukee 7 Detroit 0 Baltimore 4 Minnesota 2, Anaheim 5 New York Yankees 1; Kansas City 3 Toronto 2; Texas 3 Chicago White Sox 1 **NATIONAL LEAGUE:** Houston 4 St Louis 2 (in 10inns), Colorado 10 Montreal 8, Atlanta 15 Cincinnati 5, San Francisco 3 New York Mets 2.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Charlotte 94 Cleveland 82; Minnesota 95 Miami 87; Orlando 100 Detroit 91; Washington 131 Philadelphia 110; Chicago 117 Toronto 100; Los Angeles Clippers 99 Dallas 93, Indiana 110 New York 107 (OT), Golden State 103 Denver 93; Sacramento 120 San Antonio 106

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Georgetown, Guyana (final day of four). Indians: 341 and 277-4 dec (N S Sidhu 103, S C Ganguly 81); Guyana 300 and 227 (M V Nagamootoo 56, Z Haniff 51; S Joshi 4-74, D Ganesh 3-25) Indians won by 91 runs

FOOTBALL

Monday's late results
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Stockport 1 Watford 0
Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bury	41	21	10	10	58	38	73
Stockport	40	20	12	8	53	36	72
Brentford	41	19	14	8	55	38	71
Luton	41	19	12	10	67	44	69
Crewe	41	21	5	15	51	42	68
Watford	42	16	18	8	43	29	66
Walsall	42	18	10	14	53	47	64
Burnley	42	18	9	15	63	45	63
Wrexham	41	15	17	9	46	43	62
Bristol City	41	17	10	14	59	47	61
Millwall	43	16	13	14	50	50	61

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Kidderminster 1 Woking 0; Stevenage 3 Farnborough 1

TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP: Semi-final: Kilmarnock 0 Dundee United 0 (at Easter Road; replay at same ground on April 22)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Emley 2 Leek 3

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Chelmsford 1 Newport AFC 1.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Carshalton 2 St Albans 0

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Ettingshall HT 2 Darlaston FC 4

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Luton 0 Swansea 0; Swindon 3 Queens Park Rangers 1. League Cup: Portsmouth 1 Bournemouth 2

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Derby 5 Stoke 0, Leeds 2 Sheffield Wed 0; Manchester United 4 Liverpool 0 First division: Leicester 0 Sunderland 2; Preston 2 Notts County 0 League Cup: Semi-finals: York 2 Burnley 1

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Saltdean 0 Ringmer 1

SPANISH LEAGUE: Espanol 2 Real Oviedo 0

WORLD CUP: Concacaf zone: Final stage: *Mexico 6 Jamaica 0 (in Mexico City).* Asian zone: Group three: Bahrain 1 Jordan 0 (in Manamah)

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: São Paulo championship: Aracatuba 4 Juventus 1; Corinthians 5 America/S J Rio Preto 0; Internacional Limeira 2 Botafogo/Ribeirao Preto 0; Mogi Mirim 0 Palmeiras 2, Portuguesa Santista 0 Santos 2; Rio Branco 2 São Jose 1; São Paulo 3 Mogi Mirim 3, Uniao São Joao 0 Portuguesa 1 Rio de Janeiro championship: Bangu 1 Americano 1; Madureira 1 Flamengo 1; Vasco da Gama 1 Fluminense 0, Volta Redonda 1 Botafogo 2.

ARGENTINE LEAGUE: Gimnasia-La Plata 3 Banfield 1; Huracan Corrientes 1 Gimnasia-Jujuy 1, Lanus 3 Colon 4, Independiente 2 Huracan 0, Newell's Old *Boys 1 Boca Juniors 1; San Lorenzo 0* Estudiantes 1, Union 1 Racing Club 1, Ferrocarril Oeste 0 Platense 1

HOCKEY

ATHENS: Tour match: Men: Greece 2 Southgate Flagons 1

WOMEN'S WEST LEAGUE: Leominster 3 Wimborne 1

MOTOR RALLYING

TOUR OF SPAIN: Leading positions (after 13 stages): Equal 1, P Liatti (It, Subaru) and T Makinen (Fin, Mitsubishi) 3hr 3min 56sec, 3, G Panizzi (Fr, Peugeot) at 2min 30sec; 4, *C McRae (GB, Subaru) 3:32*, 5, A Madeghini (It, Subaru) 3:37, 6, R Madeira (Por, Subaru) 4:14.

NETBALL

COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Nottinghamshire 58 Hertfordshire 51; Middlesex 46 Essex Metropolitan 67 Bedfordshire 51 Surrey 38; Gloucestershire 51 Warwickshire 61

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Exeter 51 Arena Essex 39, Reading 52 Long Eaton 38.

SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: Wolverhampton 50 Coventry 40

TABLE TENNIS

GLASGOW: Commonwealth championships: Men: Group A: England 4 Mauritius 0; England 4 Malaysia 1 Group B: Scotland 3 Singapore 4 Group C: Canada 4 Wales 1, Australia 4 Wales 1 Group D: Northern Ireland 4 Cyprus 0, Northern Ireland 4 Barbados 0 Second stage: England 4 Australia 0 Group E: New Zealand 4 Singapore 1 Group F: Northern Ireland 2 India 4, Malaysia 3 Canada 4 Group G: Wales 4 Barbados 1, Cyprus 4 Scotland 0 Women: Group A: England 4 New Zealand 0; England 4 Malaysia 2; Malaysia 4 South Africa 0 England 4 South Africa 0 Group B: Scotland 1 *Singapore 4; Northern Ireland* 0 Australia 4 Group C: Canada 4 Barbados 0; India 4 Wales 2.

TENNIS

BARCELONA: Men's tournament: First round: M Göllner (Ger) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 6-4, 2-6, 6-2. J Alonso (Sp) bt M Gustafsson (Swe) 7-6, 3-6, 6-3; F Vicente (Sp) bt J Siemerink (Holl) 6-4, 6-3, H Arazi (Mor) bt M A Gorriz (Sp) 6-3, 6-4, C Costa (Sp) bt S Schalken (Holl) 6-2, 6-1; A Marin (Sp) bt A Voinea (Rom) 6-1, 6-1, C Ruud (Nor) bt B Ulihrach (Cz) 6-3, 6-4, K Alami (Mor) bt G Blanco (Sp) 6-4, 6-4. D Hrbaty (Slovakia) bt M Larsson (Swe) 7-5, 6-4, A Portas (Sp) bt G Kuerten (Br) 6-2, 6-1, F Meligeni (Br) bt K Kucera (Slovakia) 7-5, *6-0, G Lopez (Sp) bt D Salvador (Sp)* 6-4, 6-1; F Roig (Sp) bt A Lopez Moron (Sp) 7-6, 6-4, F Clavet (Sp) bt T Carbonell (Sp) 6-3, 1-6, 6-4; M Filippini (Uru) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, A Medvedev (Ukr) bt A Corretja (Sp) 7-5, 2-6, 6-4; J Burillo (Sp) bt E Sánchez (Sp) 6-3, 6-0, C Pioline (Fr) bt H Gumy (Arg) 7-6, 6-3 Second round: T Muster (Austria) bt R Furlan (It) 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 *TOKYO: Japan Open: Men: First round:* M Woodforde (Aus) bt S Iwabuchi (Japan) 6-1, 6-3, L Roux (Fr) bt D Adams (SA) 6-1, 6-4; J Gimelstob (US) bt F Wibier (Holl) 6-4, 7-6, D Nestor (Can) bt D Skoch (Cz) 6-1, 6-7, 6-3; H Kaneko (Japan) bt T El Sawy (Egypt) 6-1, 6-1; J Stark (US) bt O Stanoytchev (Bul) 6-3, 3-6, 6-1; N Godwin (SA) bt A Pavel (Rom) 6-4, 6-4; E Ran (Isr) bt L Jonsson (Swe) 6-3, 6-2; A Richardson (GB) bt T Nydahl (Swe) 6-3, 2-6, 6-4; A Cherkasov (Rus) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-3, 7-6; J Tarango (US) bt J Winnink (Holl) 6-3, 6-2; M Norman (Swe) bt L Paes (India) 7-6, 6-1; S Matsuoka (Japan) bt A Radulescu (Ger) 7-6, 6-7, 6-4; M Tillstrom (Swe) bt K Ullyett (SA) 7-6, 2-6, 7-5 Second round: B Becker (Ger) bt S Lareau (Can) 6-2, 4-6, 6-2; D Prinosil (Ger) bt J Golmard (Fr) 7-5, 6-1; T Woodbridge (Aus) bt R Sabau (Rom) 6-3, 6-4 Women: First round: N Kijimuta (Japan) bt K Eun-Ha (S Kor) 6-3, 6-2; K Kschwendt (Austria) bt E Tatarkova (Ukr) 6-3, 6-1; J Lee (US) bt M Miyauchi (Japan) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; A Frazier (US) bt Y Hosoki (Japan) 6-1, 6-2; M Endo (Japan) bt N Miyagi (Japan) 6-0, 6-2; J Watanabe (US) bt *N Vaidyanathan* (India) 7-5, 4-6, 6-0; N Sawamatsu (Japan) bt J Chi (US) 6-3, 6-4

WATER POLO

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Bristol 16 Sutton 6, Nova 7 Coventry 7, Royton 11 Lancaster 8; Bristol 13 Polytechnic 5; Nova 15 Birkenhead 8

RUGBY LEAGUE

Tigers' hunt for coach closes in on Raper

By Christopher Irvine

CASTLEFORD Tigers are expected to confirm the appointment of a coach from overseas shortly, as successor to John Joyner, who parted company with the club that is bottom of the Super League a fortnight ago.

A decision was deferred at a board meeting on Monday, when 15 candidates were considered and the shortlist was drawn up.

Stuart Raper, the reserve grade coach at Cronulla Sharks and favourite for the job, did not apply but was approached by the club.

Raper, son of Johnny Raper, the former Australia international forward, has acquired a reputation as one of the most promising young coaches in Australia. Another Australian in the running is Steve Martin, who was in charge at Featherstone Rovers for two years until October 1994.

Reports yesterday suggested that Raper could arrive at Wheldon Road within the next few weeks. Martin's advantage is that he is already in the country, as are two more Australians who have been linked with the position, Phil Sigsworth, the Hull coach, and Steve Simms, who was in charge at Halifax Blue Sox until two months ago.

An announcement is being delayed until Jack Foulton, the Castleford football chairman, returns from holiday in Florida, where he is being kept informed of developments. Going into the Stones Super League match at Leeds Rhinos last night, Castleford were without a point in six matches.

Joyner has emerged as the *early* favourite to succeed David Ward as the Featherstone Rovers coach. After 2½ years at Post Office Road, Ward this week became the seventh coach to part com*pany with his club this season.*

Ward, the former Leeds and Great Britain hooker, is expected to remain at Featherstone as junior development officer. Whoever takes over *has a hard task to lift* Featherstone from one place off the bottom of the first division. Howard Cartwright, the assistant coach, and Kevin Hobbs, the Alliance coach, are *in joint-temporary charge for* the match on Sunday at Workington.

Keighley Cougars and Widnes, two other teams that did not expect to find them*selves in the lower half of the* first division, meet tonight at Cougar Park. Widnes have added three more Australian players to their overseas quota, Damian McGarry, Kyle White and Roger Campbell.

BOXING

Jacobs can weigh up world title chances

RUGBY UNION

England can test depth of talent on Argentina tour

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

WHEN the England team management announces the party of 30 this morning that will make a six-match tour of Argentina next month, it will not be thinking only of South America but Australia, too. England's summer programme incorporates a one-match visit to Sydney and those who win caps against the Argentinians could also do so against Australia.

Although England's representatives on the British Isles tour to South Africa will be available by July 12, when the Sydney international is scheduled, they will have completed a gruelling eight weeks. Some will be carrying injuries, others crying out for rest, and though the Rugby Football Union has booked seats from Johannesburg to Sydney for nine players, only a handful are likely to be required.

That is why Jack Rowell, the England coach, attaches such significance to the England tour. It is an unparalleled opportunity to give his back-up players a taste of the real thing. Results from the A internationals have been encouraging and the ambitions of such players as Alex King, the Wasps stand-off half, Tony Diprose, the Saracens No 8, and Jos Baxendell, the Sale centre, can be rewarded.

The Lions, in any case, have left a stream of talent behind. Andy Robinson, the Bath coach, may believe that Mike Catt and Adedayo Adebayo will be required in South Africa at some stage, but, for the present, England have use of them and can be sure of fielding a back division against Argentina most of whom have already been capped, with the possible exception of full back. There, Jim Mallinder, the deserving Sale captain, may make a belated claim. In the centre, Nick Greenstock, of Wasps, could joust with the strong-running Baxendell.

It is the forwards, though, who will face the most severe test of ability and temperament. Argentina, who drew the last series between the countries 1-1 in 1990 and were robbed at Twickenham last December, when Jason Leonard's late try gave England a 20-18 win, will provide a volatile atmosphere, particularly in the two country matches, in Córdoba and against Cuyo Province in Mendoza.

Discipline will therefore be a key element, which players such as Garath Archer should bear in mind. Archer, the Newcastle lock, has a chance to re-establish himself as an international this summer, as has John Mallett, the Bath prop, who collected his solitary cap during the 1995 World Cup but has now settled effectively in his club's refurbished pack.

There is a healthy quantity of tight forwards from which to choose, but the back-row combination will be instructive. From the five nations' championship, Chris Sheasby and Ben Clarke can join forces with uncapped players such as Rory Jenkins, of Harlequins, and Martin Corry, of Bristol, though the latter has been struggling with a groin strain.

The summer will also prove illuminating in terms of leadership. Phil de Glanville, who is contemplating stepping down from the captaincy of Bath after two years, has been designated a long-term England captain, but Rowell will keep an eye on Martin Johnson's development as captain of the Lions. De Glanville is due to discuss the situation with his club, but is inclined to focus on his national role.

The management will also bear in mind the requirements of the England Under-21 tour party to Australia. They have five matches between June 28 and July 12, and although the Argentina tour will be over by June 7, even the most enthusiastic youngsters need a break from rugby at some stage.

Problems piling up for Swansea

Swansea's build-up to the Swalec Cup final later this month has suffered another blow with two more players reporting unfit. Simon Davies pulled a hamstring late in the semi-final against Ebbw Vale and Matthew Back, the full back, has a dead leg.

Swansea are already without four Wales internationals — Colin Charvis, Luc Evans, Arwel Thomas and Tony Clement.

Leicester forced to bank on reserves

LEICESTER, the wheels having come off their Courage Clubs Championship challenge last week, are placing their immediate future in the hands of some inexperienced youngsters against London Irish at Sunbury tonight (David Hands writes). They have no choice: of the ten senior players missing, nine are injured and the tenth, Richard Cockerill, gets a deserved rest.

The casualty list includes Martin Johnson, the British Isles captain, and Will Greenwood, both of whom have ankle injuries. "This is a game we would really like to have had everyone play in because we would expect to win it, but we can't," Bob Dwyer, the Leicester director of rugby, said with an air of resignation.

On the plus side, however, he can field some hungry young players while resting those who looked so weary as they crashed to a record league defeat by 47-9 to Bath at the weekend. The names of Mark Jasnikowski and Nnamdi Ezulike may not mean much to an audience outside Leicester but the centre and wing will welcome an unexpected opportunity, as will Lewis Moody, the young flanker who scored two tries for England in the colts international with Wales on Saturday.

It is important for the Irish that they should take advantage of their weakened visitors. They have no chance of avoiding the play-offs but, with games in hand on West Hartlepool, they can scrape clear of the two automatic relegation places though they may be without their Ireland stand-off half, David Humphreys, who also has a damaged ankle.

Cooke keeps his eyes on the ball as he prepares to serve against Brown, of Australia

Cooke in impressive form for dominant England

By Richard Eaton

ALAN COOKE likes the Commonwealth table tennis championships. The former England No 1 from Derbyshire, who has won gold and silver individual medals in this tournament, scored his fourth success in four encounters, as England completed their fifth victory to move closer to the men's team final at the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow yesterday.

Cooke, 31, does not apparently consider himself as a frontrunner for the singles title this time, although his form over the first two days suggests that he could surprise a few people. Having beaten the China-born Malaysian, Liu Jun Hui, late on Monday night, Cooke followed it with rapid straight-games wins over Trevor Brown, of Australia, and Sen Yew Fai, of Singapore, attacking with plenty of pace rather than relying on controlled top spin.

England beat both Australia and Singapore 5-0, leaving them within one victory of tomorrow's final.

Matthew Syed, likely to be top seed for the men's singles, has been playing within himself, and although Alex Perry suffered England's only loss in the first five matches, against Liu Jun Hui, the young left-hander appears to be the squad's most improving player. His deceptive serving and increased weight of shot may well prove good enough to bring him successes against stronger opponents at the world championships, in Manchester next week.

England's women completed stage one by finishing top of their group, thanks to a 4-0 success over South Africa, their third win. They followed with a 4-0 second stage victory over India, although Andrea Holt had to come from 17-18 down in the final game, and was given a warning for kicking the ball away before beating Mylapore Mythili.

If the women beat Australia this morning to complete their fifth success, they will be sure of qualifying for the final.

In their win 4-2 over Malaysia, Lisa Lomas and the English national champion, Nicola Deaton, were both beaten by Liu Jing-hong, whose bat was the subject of a protest.

Lomas argued that her opponent's bat had too little sponge on it and that the rubber covering hung over the sides. "It was clearly illegal," Lomas said, but the tournament referee, Bob Ebdon, ruled that the Malaysian could continue.

Results, page 52

Tiger prompts predictions of total eclipse

SIMON BARNES

Midweek View

One of the oldest pieces of sporting mythology that, incidentally, is perfectly true, is the story of the racehorse-owning Colonel Dennis O'Kelly's pre-race prediction: "It will be Eclipse first, the rest nowhere." And so it proved. The horse won just about every race in the 18th century, everybody bar Eclipse fighting for second place, there being no other prize available to the common run of mortal.

It was the same again at the Masters on Sunday night, when Tiger Woods eclipsed the greatest golfers in the world. He was the youngest winner, by the greatest margin, with the best score. The rest of the field were taking part in another event, squabbling among themselves for the right to be second-best.

Already people are talking about the possibility, some even predicting, that Woods will add to his green jacket the Holy Grail: the grand slam of all four majors. Golf is a volatile and unpredictable sport, and not even the greatest of players has achieved supremacy of the sort in which the champion wins every event as of right.

In golf, a champion is always under threat, always liable to fall foul of the game's caprices. But the astounded golfing establishment is now staggering about making all kinds of wild predictions: that, for the foreseeable future, it really will be Tiger Woods first, the rest nowhere.

This phenomenon, the total domination of an event or a sport by a single person, is something that crops up now and again. In Atlanta, Roger Black, the British runner, spoke of the privilege of finishing second to the extraordinary Michael Johnson in the 400 metres. "People who say they are going to beat Michael Johnson are idiots," he said. "To be second to him is a great achievement."

The Eclipse Phenomenon is a combination of exceptional ability, and the power to establish complete psychological domination: to make your opponents fellow-conspirators in the plot that brings about your own greatness; to make them fellow-believers in the cult of your own success.

Ayrton Senna had that ability, which is one of the reasons his death remains a shocking event in the memory. There was a period when the fastest driver in the world was driving the fastest car in the world, the McLaren. How much did Senna win by? Who was second? There was no other question worth asking.

Senna believed in his own greatness and compelled others to believe it. Rebuked for a driving discourtesy, one born of arrogance, he responded with genuine bafflement: "But I am Senna."

In men's tennis, Bjorn Borg had a five-year hegemony at Wimbledon. He set up a tradition that nobody was able to beat him in SW19. Nobody else expected to win, not even Jimmy Connors, who fought and twice won the right to be second.

There seem to be two sports more prone than the rest to the Eclipse Phenomenon, one of which is snooker. Steve Davis did it in the 1980s, with six world championships: Stephen Hendry is doing it now, with six, the past five in successive years.

Snooker is a game in which the opportunities for establishing mental advantage are legion. All this is made clear by the touching history of Jimmy White, who, in terms of mere shot-making, is probably the most talented player that ever drew breath. And doomed, in the final analysis, to finish second to Davis or Hendry, again and again.

The other game is women's tennis. In this sport, the Tiger Woods Effect, the Eclipse Phenomenon, is not an extraordinary event; it is the essential rhythm of the sport. It can be marked in eras, one queen following another: Navratilova, Graf, Seles.

It seemed that nothing could break Monica Seles, but a madman with a knife did the job, and Steffi Graf resumed domination of her sport. Now, as she ages, the sport moves into an interregnum. But it is fairly certain that one of the pretenders, most probably Martina Hingis, will take on the Eclipse role.

It is always interesting to speculate on sex and gender, and always dangerous, too: Is it possible to generalise about a weaker service, a weaker will? Or should the talk be of a stronger game, a stronger determination in the champions?

However, there is one certain thing about every champion, every exceptional person who ever dominated a sport, and who compelled the obedience, the serial defeat, of everyone else in the game — ultimate defeat, ultimate failure. Sport occasionally lends humans the illusion of immortality; but shockingly soon, the illusion is exposed for what it is. Every champion, no matter how great, is in the end a loser.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

There was some high-class play on this hand from the 1997 Macallan International Pairs.

Dealer West **East-West game** **IMPs**

North:
♠ J 3
♥ 10 3
♦ K Q J 10 9 8
♣ K J 10

West:
♠ K Q 9 6 4
♥ Q 6
♦ 6 5 3 2
♣ Q 8

East:
♠ 10 8 7
♥ A 9 5 2
♦ A 7
♣ 7 6 5 2

South:
♠ A 5 2
♥ K J 8 7 4
♦ 4
♣ A 9 4 3

W	N	E	S
Pass	1 D	Pass	1 H
1 S	2 D	2 S	Double
Pass	3 D	Pass	3 NT
All Pass			

Contract: Three No-trumps by South. Lead: king of spades

I assume South's double of East's Two Spades was a general forward-going move. When all North could do was bid Three Diamonds, there was a good case for South to pass.

West (Geir Helgemo, the world individual champion) led the king of spades, which held, and continued with the queen (East unblocking the ten), which also held. Now West could see that, as he had no entry, there was no point in plodding on with spades. He had to hope his partner had two aces, so it was a question of making best use of one of his queens.

If East had the ace of clubs, declarer was bound to guess correctly if West switched to that suit — why would West switch instead of continuing spades if he had the ace of clubs? And there was no point in playing a diamond and hoping declarer would misguess on a heart switch — for the same reason, declarer would be bound to get it right.

So Helgemo switched at trick three to a low heart. If East's hearts had been headed by A J, the heart switch would have beaten the contract by force. As it was, the defence still had a chance when East won and returned a heart. Now declarer (Hervé Mouiel, of France) guessed well by going up with the king of hearts. When the queen fell, the only other trick he had to lose was the ace of diamonds.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess correspondent

Anand's victory

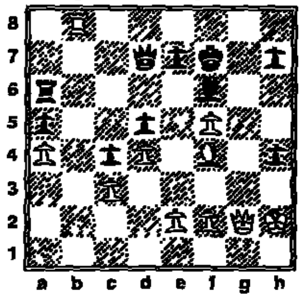
Viswanathan Anand, the Indian grandmaster, has re-established himself as a serious contender for the world title by sharing first prize in the elite tournament in Dos Hermanas. In this game, Anand first dominates an open file on the queen's flank and then wheels his forces sharp right to deal a death blow to the black king.

White: Viswanathan Anand
Black: Alexei Shirov
Dos Hermanas, April 1997

Slav Defence

1	Nf3	d5
2	d4	c6
3	c4	Nf6
4	Nc3	a6
5	Bg5	Ne4
6	Bf4	Nxc3
7	bxc3	dxc4
8	g3	g6
9	Bg2	Bg7
10	Ne5	Be6
11	Qb1	Qc8
12	a4	a5
13	0-0	0-0
14	Ra2	Nd7
15	Nxd7	Qxd7
16	Rb2	Ra7
17	Rb6	f5
18	Qb2	Bd5
19	Bxd5+	cxd5
20	Rb1	Rd8
21	Qa2	Rc8
22	R6b5	Bf6
23	h4	Kf7
24	R1b2	Rc6
25	Bb8	Raa6
26	Rxb7	Qe6
27	Qb1	g5
28	g4	gxh4
29	gxf5	Qc8
30	Kh2	Qg8
31	Qh1	Qd8
32	Bf4	Rcb6
33	Rb8	Rxb8
34	Rxb8	Qd7
35	Qg2	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Chess variants

Variations on orthodox chess are becoming increasingly popular. For example, the British Chess Variants Society is proposing to organise a series of UK championships in postal play in such alternative types of chess as Losing Chess, Rifle Chess and Progressive Cylinder Chess. Those interested should contact the British Chess Variants Society, c/o G. P. Jelliss, Top Floor, 63 Eversfield Place, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN37 6DB.

Meanwhile, the Bank of China UK Open Championship in Xiangqi (Chinese Chess) will be held at the Bank of China, Cannon Street, London, on Sunday April 20. In Chinese Chess, a river divides the board and extra pieces include the cannon and the elephant. Inquiries to C. K. Lai, 12 Lagan House, Sumner Road, London SE15 5RB.

Finally, the Shogi Foundation has been set up to promote Japanese Chess in the UK. In Japan, Shogi — similar to standard chess — has an astounding 20 million adherents. Inquiries to the Shogi Foundation, PO Box 172, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 8ZA.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

QUOTIDIAN
a. A Roman magistrate
b. Everyday
c. A newspaper

BUCENTAUR
a. A man-ox
b. The two-hundredth
c. A barge

DEBLATERATE
a. Left-right diagonal
b. To erase
c. To babble

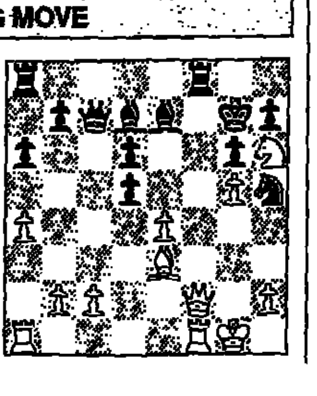
ROINOUS
a. Dilapidated
b. In two minds
c. Contemptible

Answers on page 54

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Geller — Averkin, USSR 1979. In this position 1 Bd4+, forcing Black to interpose a piece on f6, would not be a bad move. However, Geller found something stronger. Can you see what he played?



Solution on page 54

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Coca-Cola Cup
Final replay
Leicester v Middlesbrough (at Hillsborough, 7.45)

FA Carling Premiership
Everton v Liverpool (7.45)
Newcastle v Chelsea (7.45)
Wimbledon v Leeds (7.45)

Nationwide League
First division
Manchester City v Grimsby (7.45)

Second division
Gillingham v Stockport (7.45)

Vauxhall Conference
Gateshead v Stevenage ... P
Morecambe v Halifax (7.45)
Southport v Woking ... P

FA Umbro Trophy
Semi-final replays
Dag and Red v Gloucester (at Slough Town FC, 7.45)
Woking v Stevenage (at Vicarage Road, 7.45)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Spennymoor. First division: Bradford Park Avenue v Stocksbridge PS; Droylsden v Flixton.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Midland division: Ilkeston v Bilston (7.45); Paget R v Evesham. Southern division: Fareham v Dartford (7.45), St Leonards v Tonbridge Angels (7.45).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol City v Wimbledon (at Clevedon); Bristol Rovers v Bournemouth (at Yate Town); Cardiff v Arsenal (2.0); Charlton v Millwall (2.0); Crystal Palace v Watford (at Plough Lane, 2.0); Swansea v Southampton (2.0). League Cup: Semi-final: West Ham v Tottenham (2.0)

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Birmingham v Tranmere (7.15); Nottingham Forest v Oldham (7.0). First division: Blackpool v Wolverhampton (7.0); Port Vale v Sheffield Utd (7.0); West Bromwich v Huddersfield (7.0). Second division: Barnsley v York (7.0), Carlisle v Wrexham (7.0); Shrewsbury v Hull (7.0). Third division: Rochdale v Darlington (7.0), Scunthorpe v Scarborough (7.0); Wigan v Chester (7.0); Chesterfield v Lincoln (7.0)

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Ebbw Vale v Llansantffraid, Inter Cable-Tel v Barry, Ton Pentre v Briton Ferry.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bray v Bohemians

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Sheppey v Woolwich.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Tiverton v Taunton.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Buckie Thistle v Cove; Fraserburgh v Elgin; Huntly v Lossiemouth; Nairn County v Forres Mechanics.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Harry Sunderland Shield: Leyton County v Clapham. League Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Woodford v Beaconsfield SYCOB

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brache Sparta v Biggleswade; Buckingham Ath v Letchworth; London Colney v Bedford (7.45).

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: David Lloyd v Kenilworth (6.20); Meir KA v Knowle; Worcester v Coventry Sphinx (7.45).

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Shortwood v Almondsbury

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Latymer OB v Old Aloysians.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Crook v Easington; Shildon v Whitby

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Feltham v Reading Town.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries v Maine Road

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Stafford T v Walsall Wood, Wolverhampton C v Ludlow T

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Stowmarket v Great Yarmouth (7.45); Wisbech v Soham (7.45).

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Hassocks v Portfield; Mile Oak v Selsey (7.15), Whitehawk v Peacehaven and Telscombe

FA YOUTH CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Leeds v Luton.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League under-19 Trophy: Semi-final: West Midlands v Humberside (at Brierley Hill). English Snickers schools under-19 Trophy: Semi-final: Monkseaton High School, Northumberland v King's School, Chester (2.0)

RUGBY UNION

Courage Clubs Championship
First division
London Irish v Leicester (7.30)

Second division
Blackheath v Newcastle (7.45)

Welsh League
First division
Llanelli v Bridgend (7.0)
Treorchy v Swansea (7.0)

Representative match
Army v RAF (at Twickenham, 3.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 7.30

First division
Keighley v Widnes

Second division
Bramley v Doncaster

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Wigan St Patrick's v Mayfield.

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Bradford v Hull.

CRICKET

University matches
11.30, second day of three
FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Derbyshire
THE PARKS: Oxford University v Durham

County match
11.30, first day of four
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Lancashire

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Championship play-offs: Second leg: Birmingham v Chester (7.0)

BOXING: Commonwealth bantamweight championship: Paul Lloyd (Ellesmere Port, holder) v Simphiwe Pamana (SA) (at York Hall, Bethnal Green).

SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: King's Lynn v Peterborough (7.45), Poole v Ipswich. Premier League Cup: Hull v Newcastle (7.30), Long Eaton v Exeter (7.45)

TABLE TENNIS: Commonwealth championships (at Glasgow)

CRICKET: DURHAM MAKE RECORD-BREAKING START UNDER THEIR NEW CAPTAIN

Opening assault stuns Oxford

By Jack Bailey

THE PARKS (first day of three: Durham won toss): Oxford University, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 317 runs behind Durham

GILL ALLEN

Lewis, in commanding form in his first match for Durham, drives one of his 31 fours in an unbeaten 210

DAVID BOON, of Tasmania and Australia, flew in a couple of days ago, took over the captaincy of Durham and thus far has done nothing wrong. He confessed to having hardly had the time to get to know his players, and yesterday he declared before he had the chance to bat.

Yet, by winning the toss, he gave his team first use of ideal conditions — avidly seized upon by Jon Lewis and Paul Collingwood in an opening partnership of 290 — then saw his bowlers, led by Melvyn Betts, reduce Oxford to 36 for six, after they had lost their first three wickets for one run.

Boon is too old a hand to be influenced overmuch by yesterday's events. Oxford will struggle against most sides this summer. He will, however, have been impressed by Lewis's dedication and by the determined attitude of his team, even against a bunch of unseasoned undergraduates.

If Lewis could move counties more often, he probably would. Centuries on debuts are his speciality. Yesterday, he improved on the hundred he made for Essex in his first first-class match by scoring an unbeaten double-century from only 201 balls against an Oxford attack, which although even more inexperienced than usual, stuck to its task pretty well.

By the time he was finished, Lewis had also achieved the highest individual score for Durham in first-class cricket (a distinction previously held by John Morris with 204 against Warwickshire in the match in which Lara made his 501).

What with Lewis's contribution and a maiden century from Collingwood, Boon had more than enough runs on the board to give Oxford an hour and a quarter at the crease. The outcome was dire. Betts, from the pavilion end, and Brown proved too much for hesitant batting on a pitch made for runs.

Now Oxford's inexperience really showed. Their only survivor from last year's university match is their captain, Mark Wagh, and he is injured. While Nigel Laughton, a former bodyguard to the Queen and stalwart of the Black Watch, had been able to marshal his forces in the field, there was nothing he could do as the batting crumbled.

He resisted for half an hour, but was out shortly before the end. Betts had by then taken four wickets for 15 runs. He had been admirably supported by Speight, back behind the stumps, and safe catching in the close positions. Now it was a different game, played at an altogether faster pace, and Oxford had no answer.

SCOREBOARD FROM THE PARKS

DURHAM: First Innings

J J B Lewis not out	210
P D Collingwood b Patel	107
J E Morris lbw b Patel	6
N J Speak not out	13
Extras (lb 1, nb 16)	17
Total (2 wkts dec)	353

*D C Boon, †M P Speight, M M Betts, J Boiling, D M Cox, N Killeen and S J E Brown did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-290, 2-322.

BOWLING: Patel 24-2-124-2; Averis 14-1-59-0; Mather 23-2-102-0; Byrne 8-0-52-0; Hudson 2-0-15-0.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings

R D Hudson c Speight b Brown	0
J E Haynes c Speight b Betts	0
C G R Lightfoot c Collingwood b Betts	0
B W Byrne b Betts	3
J J Bull c Boon b Betts	9
J A G Fulton not out	11
*N E F Laughton lbw b Killeen	5
C Patel not out	1
Extras (b 4, lb 3)	7
Total (6 wkts)	36

†A P Scrini, J M M Averis and D P Mather to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-0, 3-1, 4-10, 5-21, 6-35.

BOWLING: Brown 8-2-13-1; Betts 7-1-15-4; Killeen 1-0-1-1; Boiling 1-1-0-0

Umpires: J H Harris and N A Mallender.

Smith stands alone in changing times

By Ivo Tennant

FENNER'S (first day of three: Cambridge University won toss): Derbyshire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 80 runs behind Cambridge University

CRICKET, as Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, emphasised this week, is changing rapidly. Somehow, for all the modernity of the buildings beyond the square-leg boundary, Fenner's might have been expected to be exempt from a world, and a game, that hurries along. But that was not the case, even on the first day of the season.

Cambridge University won the toss and, eschewing custom, did not invite their visitors to bat. That was not the way in Michael Atherton's time as captain here. So, instead of having some early-season batting practice, Derbyshire found themselves in the field on a chilly, overcast morning. The kind of morning, indeed, on which the likes of Malcolm and DeFreitas could easily have pulled a muscle.

Ultimately, though, little seemed to have changed. Cambridge were bowled out relatively cheaply and Malcolm was expensive. If that sounds unkind to both, it should be added that there was one excellent innings and that the fast bowling, such as was attempted in these conditions, was not erratic. DeFreitas, having had his first winter away from the game in 12 years, bowled more overs than anyone and took the wickets of the first three batsmen.

Derbyshire swiftly made runs after tea, not least because Jones opted to open the innings and struck a half-century off 69 balls. Quite the most impressive innings of the day, though, was played by Smith, the Cambridge opener, who made a century on his first-class debut last year.

He is a front-footed batsman, which means that he is well-suited to the square at Fenner's and, for that matter, some of the pitches in Kent, the county he will rejoin at the end of term.

Adept at working the ball away on either side of the wicket, Smith bats in the correct fashion expected of one who learnt the game on The Head at Tonbridge. Out of an innings of 195, in which the next top score was 28 by a tailender, Smith made 85 off 126 balls, with 13 fours.

Derbyshire were nothing if not enthusiastic in the field, but then so they should be under their Australian guidance. Hayhurst and Clarke took wickets on their debuts, the latter gaining plenty of turn with his leg breaks.

Adams, whatever his desires to move elsewhere, held the kind of slip catch that stings the hands at the start of the season. All this before the customary line-up of Thermos flasks and squash bottles that no amount of innovation in the game will ever alter.

SCOREBOARD FROM FENNER'S

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings

J Ratledge c Hayhurst b DeFreitas	12
E T Smith c Krikken b DeFreitas	85
*A Singh lbw b DeFreitas	9
W J House lbw b Hayhurst	8
R O Jones c Adams b Clarke	15
O Hughes c Adams b Clarke	4
M W Dawson run out	23
P S Jones lbw b Clarke	0
†D R H Churton lbw b Dean	28
J W O Freeth not out	7
E J How b Malcolm	0
Extras (lb 2, nb 2)	4
Total	195

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-25, 2-39, 3-70, 4-112, 5-134, 6-136, 7-136, 8-183, 9-192

BOWLING: Malcolm 14 4-1-59-1; DeFreitas 17-3-53-3; Dean 9-2-22-1; Hayhurst 4-1-12-1; Clarke 16-4-47-3.

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings

*D M Jones c R O Jones b Freeth	58
A S Rollins not out	38
C J Adams not out	5
Extras (b 11, lb 3)	14
Total (1 wkt)	115

A N Hayhurst, †K M Krikken, P A J DeFreitas, M J Vandrau, V P Clarke, G M Roberts, K J Dean and D E Malcolm to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-102.

BOWLING: P S Jones 12-2-29-0; How 5-0-27-0; Dawson 9-0-16-0; Freeth 6-1-29-1

Umpires: R Julian and M R Benson.

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FATHER AND SON FOURSOMES GOLF TOURNAMENT

At West Hill GC

FIRST ROUND: R A and D Wood (Wilderness and Nevill) bt J T and J Green (RAC and Broome Manor) 2 holes; D H and A Greenhalgh (Royal Mid Surrey) bt J S and N Gilbert (Burhill) 1 hole. D H and M Baxter (Holme Hall and Hirst Priory) bt D P and J Choyce (Rochford Hundred) 4 and 3. E J and M Farmer (Royal Eastbourne and North Hants) bt G and J Fletcher (Royal St George's) 19th hole; G N and M Bar-Rawden (Haywards Heath and West Hill) bt A J S and H Wood (Walton Heath) 3 and 1. M J and M Hickey (West Hill) bt R J and J Lavelle (Berkshire) 5 and 4.

A M and D Bennett (Walton Heath) bt B and G White (Hadley Wood) 6 and 4. D H S and J Dunnett (Nevill and Olton) bt A R and R Guest-Gornall (Sunningdale) 4 and 3. C D A and J Martin-Jenkins (West Sussex) bt R S and A Cox (Burnham Beeches) 5 and 3. W and C Pearce (Royal North Devon and West Hill) bt D W and T Sykes (East Devon and West Hill) 4 and 3. D H and C Ramsay (Berkhamsted) bt A S and D Cronk (Walton Heath) 4 and 3: I D H and S Henderson (Aldeburgh and Colchester) bt J A and R Murphy (Skelmorlie and Bristol) 2 holes. S F and P Brown (Ashridge) bt R P and F Lawson (Sunningdale) 2 and 1. R F M and F Hope (Chiberta) bt J H and C Dyce (Saffron Walden and Wentworth) 1 hole

W H B and A Kidd (Wentworth and Tracey Park) bt P and D Story (Mutton and Liphook) 6 and 5. R W and N Elliott (Littlehampton and Bramley) bt W E and J McCrea (Walton Heath) 2 and 1. J M and T Clink (Ilkley Brook) bt E R and V Bates (Stoke Poges and Ellesborough) 5 and 4. D C and J Doon (Nevill and Royal Ashdown) bt D P G C and J Sinker (Stinchcombe) 3 and 2. T G A and J Chappell (Yeovil and Royal Mid Surrey) bt A C and J Aylwin (Sunningdale) 4 and 3. G M H and P Walker (Woking) bt B M and B Clarke (Holtye) 1 hole.

P L and S Osborn (Lindrick and Royal Wimbledon) bt M S and R Rees (Bristol and Henbury) 2 holes. R C and S Stovold (West Surrey) bt R G and D Humphrey (Bramley) 3 and 2. M and R Taggart (Wildernesse) bt J R and R Bampfield (Oswestry) 8 and 7. R E and P Borall (Blackmoor) bt Dr J D and R Williams (Chislehurst) 2 and 1; B J F and G Taylor (Thorpe Hall) bt I and W Kelsey Fry (Addington) 3 and 2; A J and K Skrungton (Tandridge) bt B and K Sharp (Royal Eastbourne and Collingtree Pk) 1 hole. B E and A Prince (West Hill) bt A E and I Oakes (Hunstanton and Denham) 2 and 1. J and M Connelly (Woking) bt K S and M Maclean (Tandridge) 2 and 1. M M and P Lawson (Stoneham and Hockley) bt D G and A Arundale (High Post) 20th hole

J B and J Hodgson (Sunningdale) bt G and A Gillespie (Worplesdon) 3 and 2; J and A Baldwin (Tandridge and East Berks) bt R W and M Eledon-Dew (Walton Heath and Richmond) 3 and 2. C and J Harridge (Cowdray Park and Worplesdon) bt M L and R Hardingham (Liphook and Richmond Park) 3 and 2. R W and I Attoe (Worplesdon) bt R I and B Fraser (West Hill) 4 and 3. P G and S Smith (Surbiton) bt D H R and C Holland (Sunningdale) 19th hole. P G and S Sechiari (Woking) bt J G and G Gow (Formby) 19th hole. R J and D Hill (Worplesdon) bt B H and J Smart (Guildford) 19th hole. J A L and A Smith (Highwoods) bt D C and M Burridge (Ealing) 2 and 1. J B C and W Atkinson (Bishop's Stortford) bt F W R and T Stocks (St George's Hill) 1 hole.

J K and K Tullis (Sunningdale) bt R J and C Coombes (Walton Heath) 6 and 5; I H F and G Findlay (Addington and Royal Blackheath) bt S B and N Oliver (West Byfleet) 3 and 2. D and A Knill-Jones (Banstead Downs and Walton Heath) bt D I and D Stirk (Royal North Devon and London Scottish) 1 hole: G F and H Keeys (Wisley and RAC) bt Drs J J S and A Chesser (Walton Heath) 3 and 2. J R and R Pound (Worplesdon) bt T E and E Clutton (Wrexham) 1 hole, S H E and C Staveley (Hunstanton) bt A W and G Morrison (Chigwell) 2 holes; S R and C Stradling (Rye and Worplesdon) bt M V and R Scawn (Wilmslow) 1 hole. S G and J Morgan (Wisley and Windlesham) bt Dr R A and L Wiener (Hadley Wood) 3 and 2; T W G and R Betts (Mannings Heath) bt H A and T Mole (West Sussex) 4 and 2

A H and R Evans (Dulwich and Royal Cinque Ports) bt C J and P Freestone (Lutterworth and Leicestershire) 5 and 4. G R and M James (Rye and Walton Heath) bt Dr J C and P Murphy-O Connor (Denham) 2 and 1. V F and G Davis (Wyke Green) bt P F B and M Cooper (Huntercombe) 19th hole. G T and M Radmore (Liphook) bt Dr T J and J Grake (Royal Adelaide and Mt Lofty) 1 hole, E J B and J White (Alresford) bt S R and R Warren (Pinner Hill) 3 and 1, P J R and A Bathurst (Hankley Common) bt R M and M Macpherson (NZ and Hockley) 19th hole, G L and G Bradbury (Burhill) bt D M and W Laing (West Sussex and The Dyke) 6 and 5. E M and E Salisbury (Shanklin and Kopena) bt J A and R Piggott (Littlehampton and Perivale) 3 and 2

B E and M Joseph (Glamorganshire) bt O and R Logan (Hankley Common) 2 holes. T L and W Barclay (Bradford and Royal Wimbledon) bt A and J Sparrow (Lytham Green Drive) 1 hole. D P and A Horne (Royal Porthcawl and Bearsted) bt J A S and R Gill (Worplesdon) 4 and 3. R W and J Ketling (Rye and Denham) bt J K and E Birley (Tandridge) 5 and 4. A C and J Stapleton (Gerrards Cross) bt P G and M Cornish (West Hill and Berkshire) 2 holes. D F R and A Lord (Northamptonshire) bt G E and A Toudevin (Pinner Hill and Dunbar) 2 and 1; A S and R Lloyd (Royal St George's) bt C and A Taylor (Luffenham Heath and Burghley Pk) 5 and 3

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 53

QUOTIDIAN

(b) Everyday; recurring daily; ordinary; commonplace. Can be used as a noun, meaning a daily allowance or allotment. "Have you had your quotidian yet?" *Diurnal* in one of its senses means the same. But, in another means, "by day" as distinct from "by night". So it is not necessarily a solecism to speak of a diurnal quotidian. To speak of a nocturnal quotidian might be quite another thing.

BUCENTAUR

(c) The state barge of Venice, formerly used during the annual marriage of Venice with the Adriatic. This ceremony was meant to establish and maintain the true and perpetual dominion of Venice over the Adriatic, which in turn was to be subject to Venice as a bride was to her husband. The male chauvinist swinery implicit in this is reaping its just reward, as the Adriatic comes closer to drowning Venice once and for all. The Fathers of the State are now looking for a suitable barge in which to obtain a divorce.

DEBLATERATE

(c) To babble, to chatter nonsensically but self-importantly, as at Human Resources Consultative Meetings.

ROINOUS

(c) Mean, nasty and contemptible. "I will let Terence speak for himself. Then you will all see how uniquely and overwhelmingly roinous he can be."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qf7+! Rxf7 2 Rxd7+ Kh8 3 Bd4+ Bf6 (3 ... Nf6 4 Rxf6 wins) 4 Rxf6! and Black has no good defence to the threat of discovered checkmate, e.g. 4 ... Ng7 5 Rf7 Qc5 6 Bxc5 and White wins easily on material.

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TELEVISION CHOICE

You are feeling very sleepy...

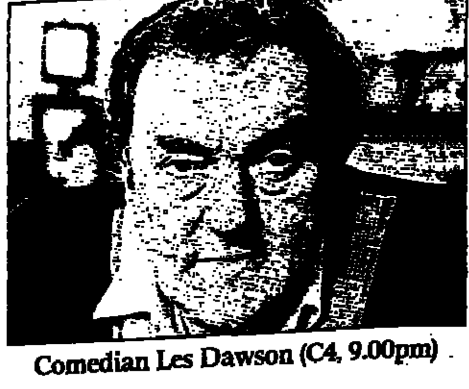
The Hypnotic World of Paul McKenna
ITV, 8.00pm

As if mindful of critics who see something sinister in using hypnotism for mass entertainment, McKenna goes out of his way to present it as harmless fun. His show involves inducing members of the public to do silly things. A young woman is approached by a genie (easily recognisable as snooker's John Virgo) to make three wishes. McKenna has cheekily programmed her to say toilet roll, toilet roll and toilet roll. A male contestant is persuaded that a household mop is a beautiful woman and he proceeds to kiss it and ask it for a date. Apart from giving us the chance to laugh at other people making idiots of themselves, rather in the manner of *Noel's House Party*, this is an innocuous show. In slightly more serious vein, McKenna hynotises two celebrities into overcoming their phobias.

Modern Times: Jurors
BBC2, 9.00pm

For those whose jury service has meant only a tedious trawl through petty theft, Nick Read's film will be an unsettling eye-opener. Admittedly his five jurors all experienced the extremes of the job. All sat on gruesome murder cases, including the Yorkshire Ripper, a man accused of cutting a young mother's throat and a teenage boy charged with battering a three-year-old child. But even this will not prepare you for some of the testimonies. It was not just having to sit through distressing evidence, or feeling the burden of having to decide innocence or guilt. The cases followed the jurors for weeks afterwards. One woman returned from the trial so afraid of being at home on her own that she would not open her front door. All the jurors say they were profoundly disturbed by the experience and complain that they were offered no help or support.

Heroes of Comedy: Les Dawson
Channel 4, 9.00pm



Comedian Les Dawson (C4, 9.00pm)

Watching John Fisher's splendid tribute, you feel that with the passing of Les Dawson an entire comic tradition died with him. Today's comedians, as Jane Horrocks observes in this film, are about being clever. Dawson's comedy belonged to the variety halls and, like his great inspirations, Frank Randle and Norman Evans, he drew his material from the hard lives of the industrial north. The humour was sardonic but never snide and it was rooted in the experiences of ordinary people. Even Dawson's mother-in-law jokes, politically incorrect as they now seem, were founded in truth. Many a young husband, unable to afford a place of his own, had to live with his wife's family and sometimes the only way to cope with inevitable friction was through jokes. Generous clips and shrewd analysis make up a model profile.

ER: The Long Way Round
Channel 4, 10.00pm

The Chicago hospital drama departs from usual practice by setting all but the last few minutes of this episode outside the emergency room. This allows Nurse Hathaway (Julianna Marguiles) to take centre stage, despite being suspended from duty. But it is not the sort of spotlight she would wish. The Scottish actor Ewan McGregor guests as one of two teenage cousins who hold up a grocery store, shoot the proprietor and take the occupants of the shop, including Hathaway, hostage. What follows is a standard siege scenario, but staged with all the expertise in writing and editing that you would expect from *ER*. The blood-letting may be overdone but there is relief in seeing how our nurse improvises medical aids from the household goods on sale in the shop. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

The Coroner,
Radio 4, 7.20pm

This is proving an excellent series which, in some quarters, is being cited as having something to teach television about getting to the detail of sudden death without being intrusive. That is not a fair comparison, for watching a tragedy will be always seem more intrusive than hearing about it. But *The Coroner* eavesdrops in a tender way, not least tonight in the case of a boy killed in a road accident. Cate Foster, an investigator for the West Yorkshire Coroner's Office, once again demonstrates that she has remarkable skills as a social worker and carer. Today's story is a classic illustration of how an innocent sequence of events can end in tragedy and produce unwarranted feelings of guilt.

Touching the Elephant.
Radio 4, 8.35pm

There are plenty of scientific versions of those games children (and some adults) play in which they have identify objects and even living creatures while blindfolded. Such experiments can teach a lot about perception but of course to be blindfolded is very different to being blind. A Hindu myth tells of six blind men who meet an elephant and give six radically different accounts of what it is they have encountered. In this programme, the presenter Kim Normanton takes four blind people — a woman who loves animals, a computer buff, a piano tuner and an imaginative child — to meet Dilberta the elephant at London Zoo. The range of their perceptions about the creature is quite astonishing. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe, includes **7.30** Newsbeat **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Kevin Greening **5.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session with Steve Lamacq **8.30** Global Update **8.40** John Peel **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00am** Claire Sturgess **4.00** Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Nick Barraclough **8.00** Jim Lloyd **9.00** Fairport Convention — the First 30 Years **9.30** As Time Goes Byby Bob Larbey **10.00** Explorer II **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **7.00** News Extra with Valerie Singleton **7.20** Trevor Brooking's Football Night. Everton v Liverpool, Newcastle v Chelsea and Wimbledon v Leeds. Including the results of the National Lottery draw **10.00** Dominik Diamond **11.00** Brian Hayes's Election Night **12.00** After Hours **2.05am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **BST**. News on the hour. **5.30am** Europe Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.30** World Today **8.15** Cheri **9.10** Pause for Thought **9.15** Concert Hall **10.05** World Business Report **10.15** Farming World **10.30** Science File **10.45** Sport **11.30** One Planet **12.30pm** Sports International **1.05** World Business **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** Science Update **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Megamix **4.05** Sports Roundup **4.15** performance **4.30** Everywoman **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Britain Today **6.15** World Today **6.30** From Our Own Correspondent **6.45** Sport **7.30** The Works **8.01** Outlook **8.25** Pause for Thought **8.30** Multitrack **10.05** World Business Report **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** On Screen **11.30** World Today **11.45** Sports Roundup **12.05am** Outlook **12.30** Multitrack **1.30** From Our Own Correspondent **1.45** Britain Today **2.30** Omnibus **3.30** Meridian Books **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **7.00** Mike Read **10.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Election '97 **1.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto. Haydn (Sinfonia Concertante in Bb major); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 2 in A major) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Classic Newsnight with John Brunning **7.30** Sonata. Debussy (Violin Sonata) **8.00** Evening Concert. Telemann (Darmstadt Overture); Bach (Concerto for Keyboard and Orchestra in D minor); Purcell (Music from The Prophetess); Rameau (Pieces de Clavecin en Concert) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Lunchtime Concerto (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Russ 'n' Jono **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **6.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

***6.00am On Air**, with Andrew McGregor. Includes* Fayrfax (Maria Plena Virtute), Bax (Violin Concerto); Shostakovich (Prelude and Fugue); Viotti (Violin Concerto No 22 in A minor); Scheidt (Canzona Super Cantionem Gallicam); Galliarda (La Battaglia); Tippett (Concerto for the double stringed orchestra)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes Haydn (Piano Trio in E flat); Loewe (Der Nock); Foerster (Shakespeare Suite, Op 76)
10.00 Musical Ecounters, with Chris de Souza. Includes Bach (Sonata in D minor), Brahms (Schicksalslied), Britten (Cello Sonata); Howells (Credo); Schumann (Arabeske, Op 18); Miaskovsky (Cello Concerto)
12.00 Composers of the Week: Forgotten Giants of 18th-Century Opera. The Divine Pergolesi. Paul Guinery introduces music by the most popular of the week's composer. Includes arias from *Il Maestro di Musica* and *Lo Frate Innamorato*
1.00pm Concert Hall. Live from the Wigmore Hall, London. Sorrel Quartet. Includes Hadny (String Quartet in D, Op 71 No 2); Elgar (String Quartet in E minor)
2.00 Midweek Choice, with Susan Sharpe. Includes Schumann (The Two Grenadiers); Strauss (Panathenäenzug), Mozart, arr anon (Grande Sestetto Concertante, K364)
4.00 Choral Evensong. Live from the Chapel of Clare College, Cambridge
5.00 Music Machine. Tommy Pearson and Will Menter discuss how music changes when one culture borrows from another. Menter plays some of his hocketing music for his own slate marimba and for African thumb piano
5.15 In Tune, with Andrew Green. Includes Granados (*Villanesca*); *Grainger (Soldier, Soldier)*; Debussy (Trois Chansons de Charles d'Orleans); Pleyel (Symphony in C, Op 66)
7.30 Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, under Elgar Howarth. With Christian Lindberg, trombone, Hakan Hardenberger, trumpet. Includes Birtwistle (Refrains and Choruses); Folke Rabe (Tintomara); Jan Sandstrom (Cantos de la Mancha); Karin Rohnqvist (Taromir's Time); Birtwistle (Endless Parade)
9.10 Amours de Voyage. Tom Paulin introduces the third part of Arthur Hugh Clough's verse novel. Claude decides to follow Mary to Florence. Read by Nicholas Boulton and Samantha Bond (3/5)
9.30 From Transylvania and Beyond. A sequence of lute music played by Julian Bream and Luciano Contini. Includes Balint Bakfark (A Fantasia); Giovanni Zamboni (Sonata VI)
10.00 Ensemble. Penny Gore introduces a piano recital by Kevin Kenner. Chopin (Prelude in C sharp minor, Op 45; Polonaise in F sharp minor, Op 44; Waltz in A flat), Scherzo (No 3 in C sharp minor, Op 39; Nocturne in B, Op 62 No 1; Four Mazurkas, Op 67)
10.45 Night Waves. Humphrey Carpenter examines some of the lesser-known but still remarkable works of Mark Twain through the volumes of Shelley Fisher Fishkin's major new edition *The Oxford Mark Twain*
11.30 Composer of the Week: Rozsa (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes. Digby Fairweather introduces the second part of a concert at the Adrian Boult Hall given as part of Birmingham Jazz's 20th anniversary
1.00am Through the Night, with Donald Macleod. Includes at *5.00am Sequence*

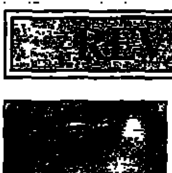
RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Election Call 0345 514 614. Peter Sissons puts your questions to the Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine
10.00 News; Taking the Veil (FM). The audio diary from the time that the actress Fiona Shaw spent in an enclosed silent convent
10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray
11.30 Gardeners' Question Time. Bob Flowerdew, Nigel Colborn and Geoffrey Smith answer questions posed by the staff and the readers of the *Worcester Evening News* (r)
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Lesley Riddoch
12.25pm Imperial Palace. Arnold Bennett's novel, dramatised by Peter Ling. There is a takeover threat to the hotel. With Robin Ellis and Derek Waring (2/4) **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; My Way: Sid Vicious, by Sue Teddern. A woman is reminded of her punk past by an unkempt visitor. With Gillian Bevan and Charles Simpson (r)
2.45 Treasure Islands. Julia Eccleshare looks at modern retellings of myths and legends. Are classical heroes such as Odysseus, King Arthur and Anansi still relevant?
3.00 News; *The Afternoon Shift*, *with Daire Brehan.* Anna MacNamee meets Jackie Stewart and his son Paul, who have joined forces to run a Formula One racing team
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Gambaccini sees *The Saint* starring Val Kilmer as Simon Templar and reviews Woody Allen's new musical *Everyone Says I Love You*
4.45 Short Story: The Labour in Vain, by Marika Cobbold. A woman's saintly behaviour hides an ulterior motive. Read by Cathy Sara
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Brain of Britain. Robert Robinson presents the first London and Home Counties round (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Coroner. See Choice
8.05 Music under Dictatorships. Michael Oliver investigates the impact on music and musical life of some 20th-century regimes. This week, the effects Stalin and the other communist dictators had on the Soviet Union (2/4)
8.35 Touching the Elephant. See Choice
9.00 Costing the Earth. Mark Whittaker looks at patenting laws in the light of growing concern over the patenting of genetic forms. Can an equitable protective legal framework be produced? (4/8)
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Go-Between, by L.P. Hartley. Read by John Rowe (r) (8/10)
11.00 The Skivers. The comedy sketch show with Nick Golson, Tim de Jongh, Peter Bradshaw and Philip Thomas (r)
11.30 Doon Your Way. More off-beat comedy with Doon Mackichan, *Pam Ferris and Alistair* McGowan. Last in the series (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Aletha by Charles Johnson. A university professor encounters a world of drugs, sex and racial exploitation. Read by Charles Robinson (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

All are casualties in the battle of the sexes

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Are you sitting comfortably? Then you can't have watched last night's **Witness: Men Who Pay for Sex** (Channel 4). Either that or you're female, in which case you're probably sitting contemptuously already, so I'd better get on with it.

John Fothergill's film was laced with statistics, based, we were told, on interviews with 250 men who use ("visit" appears to be the accepted but frankly misleading euphemism) prostitutes. From this we learnt that more than half the men were married or in a long-term relationship, and that one in five thought that paying for sex was probably the only way they would get any. What the statistics did not tell us, however, was what on earth induced six of them to appear on television and tell us all about it?

How had they been recruited? Had the producer put a card in a telephone kiosk offering "discipline and 15 minutes of television fame"? Or had he crawled slowly along in his car muttering "Channel 4, Channel 4" and picked up the first six punters who thought this might be a new sexual act? We shall never know.

Of the six, four conformed to the received prejudice that men who pay for it are sad, old ... whatever your preferred term of abuse. Their excuses included impotence, loneliness, addiction and social inadequacy, the latter being the most polite way of describing the personal skills of the ageing DJ whose idea of a chat up-line was: "How about you and me go home for a one-on-one?" It was shortly after this confession that the statistic about one in five having no option but to pay for sex was flashed up.

Of the other two, one was simply the sort of young man who experience tells us not always to believe. "I do see myself as a ladies' man," said Wayne. "But none of my mates do." Shrewd judges, mates.

But it was Bill who had the most explaining to do. He was the only one of our six who was not only married but "happily married" and whose wife apparently knew all about his regular visits to a prostitute called Joy. "Sex and making love are two different things," he explained. "I have sex with Joy, but I make love to my wife." How I wished the cameras had been there when he first explained that to Mrs Bill. Sadly, we never heard from her or from the six former wives that the others had run up between them.

Having persuaded his subjects to speak out, Fothergill deserves praise for not following the current fashion of subsequently making fools of them in the edit suite. The format was straightforward, with the confessions delivered straight to camera. Occasionally, as the stories about Green Park, Paddington and Amsterdam continued, another shot of the subject would be substituted — standing silently by the kitchen sink, on the stairs, by a fireplace. Look, we're just ordinary men, the images shouted. A little too loudly.

Two of the men had had their lives all but destroyed by their habit. One spoke in the hushed tones of the therapy group as he recalled pawning his wedding ring to pay for just one more outing to Amsterdam. The other, an elderly former RAF officer who earlier had banged on unrepentantly about his high sex drive, recounted what happened after his second wife discovered his visits to Vivienne. She stopped eating, became anorexic and eventually succumbed to pneumonia. "I feel very guilty," admitted Lesley. "If it were possible to put it right I would and making this programme will probably help in that respect." Somehow, I doubt it.

A more effective cure for any man suffering from an excessive sex drive would have been to walk into the Queen Vic last night. The women of Albert Square at play is nothing if not a shrivelling sight. Dot Cotton may not have made it yet, but in an epic week for **EastEnders** (BBC1), Bianca's hen-night had finally arrived.

As they washed down the eye of newt and toe of frog nibbles with champagne (which as all EastEnders know is the best lager you can buy) and the Spencer Brothers' novelty balloon act, the talk among the Walford witch ... women inevitably turned to men. It was not good, chaps, definitely not good.

My colleague, Lynne Truss, pointed out yesterday that Bianca's words about a quiet night in being better than ending up "tied to a lamppost in Scotland" were ominous. But nothing like as ominous as two sentences uttered on Ricky's stag night last night. The first was Phil's: "I ain't drinking, am I?", closely followed by their new, arm-wrestling friend's confession that he worked on the cross-channel ferries: "Dover-Calais crossing". Sure as eggs are oeufs, Grant, Nigel, Ricky and a very drunk Phil ("s'awright, he knows wot'eez doin'") were last seen heading to the ferry port. What larks, eh?

I think it was Carol who said that the way to a man's heart was his stomach and Blossom, perhaps, who thought that was a bit high. On second thoughts, it makes rather more sense the other way around. But whichever it was, they were proved absolutely right by the second instalment of **Murder One** (BBC2). The new man at Hoffman Associates, James Wyler (Anthony LaPaglia) was finding it impossible to get through a meal with anybody, but the first merry widow to wiggle her well upholstered wallet ... and hey, look who's staying for breakfast.

In his defence it must be said that widows do not come much merrier than Caroline Van Allen (Romy Walthall) and that he had taken the precaution of falling out with his previous girlfriend, the equally beautiful Laura (Jessica Tuck), first. Over lunch, naturally.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (71697)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (70679516)

9.05 Election Call Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine answers questions Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 4 (9378887)

10.00 Style Challenge (21897)

10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (91245)

11.00 News (T) and weather (4558351)

11.05 The Really Useful Show (9928142)

11.35 Change That (6422516)

12.00 News (T) and weather (4232719)

12.05pm Call My Bluff (5884448)

12.35 Good Living (9615719)

1.00 News (T) and weather (68806)

1.30 Regional News (T) (50245603)

1.45 The Weather Show (39683210)

1.50 Neighbours (T) (22670158)

2.15 Quincy (r) (3605871)

3.00 Through the Keyhole (1413)

3.30 Playdays (r) (6920429) **3.50** Monster Cafe (r) (6081535) **4.05** The New Yogi Bear Show (r) (9908351) **4.10** Gadget Boy (8010719) **4.35** Out of Tune (r) (7342719) **5.00** Newsround (T) (5920968) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (4087069)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (863581)

6.00 News (T) and weather (535)

6.30 Regional News (T) (887)

7.00 How Do They Do That? How a team of British gas engineers are helping the people of Sarajevo rebuild their city (T) (9622)

7.30 Tomorrow's World A French doctor pioneering a new heart-valve operation which could change the face of surgery forever, and the Army's innovative way of getting across rivers (T) (871)

8.00 National Lottery Live (T) (458429)

8.10 Ballykissangel The first episode of the comedy-drama about an English priest in a small Irish village. With Stephen Tompkinson, Dervla Kirwan and Tony Doyle (r) (T) (892351)

9.00 News (T) and weather (812061)

9.50 Party Election Broadcast By the Conservative Party (691413)

9.59 National Lottery Update (772332)

10.00 They Think It's All Over Boxing champion Steve Collins and Caroline Quentin join regulars David Gower, Gary Lineker, Lee Hurst and Rory McGrath for another round of the comedy sports quiz, hosted by Nick Hancock (T) (10326)

10.30 Sportsnight Introduced by Desmond Lynam. Football: Highlights of Everton v Liverpool from Goodison Park, the 153rd Merseyside derby. Plus, the key moments from the rest of tonight's FA Premiership games. Boxing: Robert McCracken defends his Commonwealth middleweight title (59279332)

12.10am Stranger Within (1990) with Rick Schroder, Kate Jackson and Chris Sarandon. A mysterious teenager arrives at a woman's home claiming to be her long-lost son. She accepts him not knowing that there are some startling secrets in his past. Directed by Tom Holland (T) (563833)

1.45-1.50 Weather (5110291)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

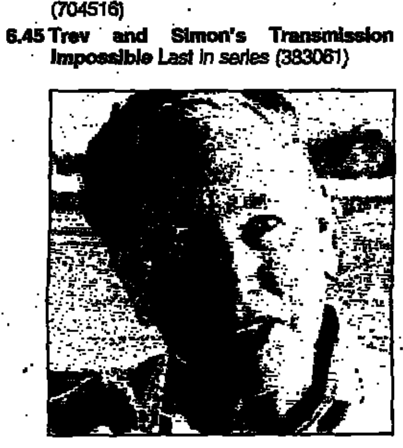
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am O.U.: Hidden Power (2262429) **6.25** A Robot in the Parlour? (2274264) **6.50** Modelling a Muddle (1473121) **7.15** See Hear News (8986142) **7.30** Teenage Turtles (r) (4077697) **7.55** The Lowdown (r) (T) (5562871) **8.20** Buzzy Bee and Friends (3161516) **8.35** Raccoons (r) (9860429) **9.00** Discovering Portuguese (3498974) **9.25** Belief File (8863852) **9.45** Words and Pictures (2143448) **10.00** Teletubbies (29429) **10.30** Numbertime (2289055) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (2277210) **11.00** Moving to English (4452581) **11.20** The Art (7937516) **11.40** Study Ireland (6985413) **12.00** The Shape of the World (17239) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (37581) **1.00** Geography Collection (70509784) **1.25** Zig Zag (64093332) **1.45** Come Outside (50168500) **2.00** Philbert the Frog (37173158) **2.05** The Adventures of Buzzy Bee and Friends (r) (37172429) **2.10** The Village (31466005) **2.35** True Romance (4884500) **3.00** News (T) (7529516) **3.05** Campaign Roadshow (9759351) **3.55** News (T) **4.00** Blockbusters (6657177) **4.25** Ready, Steady, Cook (6650264) **4.55** Esther (8159516) **5.25** Today's the Day (2388036) **5.55** Turning Points (517326) **WALES:** Plaid Cymru Broadcast

6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (r) (T) (704516)

6.45 Trev and Simon's Transmission Impossible Last in series (383061)



Alison Jolly, lemur expert (7.00pm)

7.00 Seven Wonders of the World Leading primatologist, Alison Jolly chooses her personal seven wonders (T) (7264)

7.30 Black Britain The first black professional footballer, Arthur Wharton (T) (413)

8.00 University Challenge Open University v Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (T) (9564)

8.30 Home Front Transforming two bedrooms for teenagers (T) (2719)

9.00 Modern Times: Jurors Insight into the traumas suffered by jurors (T) (810603)

9.50 A Woman Called Smith The rural tale of Frances Smith's fall from high society to subsisting on her farm in Kent following her husband's redundancy from his stock market job (T) (699055)

10.00 Airport (r) (T) (18968)

10.30 Election Broadcast: Conservative (T) (757264)

10.35 Newsnight (T) (772790)

11.30 Rock Family Trees: New Mersey Beat (r) (817142)

12.25am Weather (3165475)

12.30-6.00 Learning Zone: Chemistry of Survival (97901) **1.00** Chemistry of Power (31098) **1.30** Chemistry of Life and Death (78017) **2.00** Anglo-Saxons (87833) **4.00** BBC Focus (46901) **4.30** Unicef in the Classroom (45291) **5.00** Basic Skills (1/3)(90253) **5.30** Voluntary Matters (28369)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (6556264)

9.25 Chain Letters (T) (3495887)

9.55 Regional news (T) (2517974)

10.00 The Time, the Place (43055)

10.30 This Morning (T) (61977535) **12.20pm** Regional News (4221603)

12.30 News (T) and weather (9601516) **12.55** Shortland Street (9619535) **1.24** HTV Crimestoppers (35121158) **1.25** Home and Away (64908210) **1.50** Afternoon Live (33381500) **2.20** Vanessa (82917595) **2.50** Afternoon Live (5884806)

3.20 News (T) (7536806)

3.25 Regional News (T) (7535177)

3.30 Tots TV (6072887) **3.40** Alphabet Castle (r) (9550142) **3.50** Sooty and Co (r) (6928061) **4.10** Animaniacs (T) (9818784) **4.20** Spielberg's Pinky and the Brain (T) (5115516) **4.40** Harry's Mad (r) (T) (8157158)

5.10 Bagdad Cafe (r) (T) (1468887)

5.40 News (T) and weather (119887)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (880784)

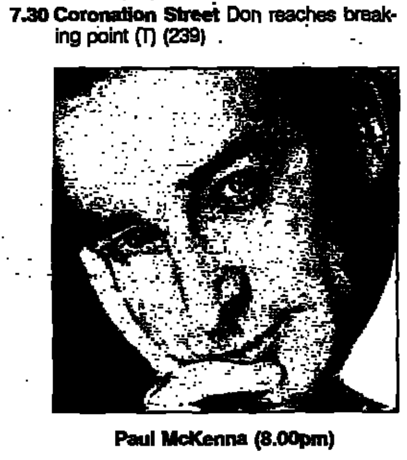
6.25 HTV Weather (862993)

6.30 The West Tonight (T) (599559)

6.50 Election Broadcast: Conservative Party (T) (542887)

7.00 Emmerdale Andy resorts to violence, while Rachel is plagued by unwelcome visitors (T) (4790)

7.30 Coronation Street Don reaches breaking point (T) (239)



Paul McKenna (8.00pm)

8.00 The Hypnotic World of Paul McKenna Celebrity guests queue up to have their fears and phobias cured in this special (T) (8603)

9.00 The Fugitive (1993) with Harrison Ford and Tommy Lee Jones. Big-screen version of the classic 1960s series about a doctor falsely accused of murdering his wife and forced to go on the run while trying to prove his innocence. Directed by Andrew Davis. Continues after the News (T) (2239)

10.00 News (T) and weather (37662)

10.30 Regional news (T) (474429)

10.40 FILM: The Fugitive Conclusion of tonight's film (T) (4019852)

12.10am Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (5163794)

12.40 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (6224543)

1.05 Ladyhawke (1985) with Matthew Broderick, Rutger Hauer and Michelle Pfeiffer. Medieval fantasy adventure about a black-clad knight and his mistress, the victims of a curse which prevents them from meeting as humans. Directed by Richard Donner (83386814)

3.20 Sound Bites (54441746) **3.35** Not Fade Away (r) (2538494) **4.30** The Time, the Place (r) (49017) **5.00** Coronation Street (r) (T) (27307) **5.30** News (48123)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9619535)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1468887)

6.25-6.50 Central News (964210)

12.10am The Match — Highlights: Coca-Cola Cup Final Replay (9722017)

1.10 Dating the Enemy (8767384)

2.10 Funky Bunker (5953253)

3.10 The Chart Show (4440765)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.55 Home and Away (2913158)

1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (70685158)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1468887)

6.00 Westcountry Live (447719)

6.55-7.00 PEB (817603)

1.10am Movie Club (7387833)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9619535)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1468887)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (844891)

6.20-6.50 Doing It Up (962332)

12.10am Coca-Cola Cup Final 1997 Highlights (9722017)

1.10 Movie Club (7387833)

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9619535)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1468887)

6.23 Anglia Weather (863622)

6.25-6.50 Anglia News (964210)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (60535)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (58429)

9.00 Bewitched (15871)

9.30 Film: I'll Be Seeing You (15852)

11.00 Tintin (9004516)

11.25 Mighty Mouse (4551448)

11.35 Extreme (3107993)

12.30pm Ricki Lake (35177)

1.00 Slot Meithrin (33996054)

1.15 Lisabeth (38946559)

1.30 Collectors' Lot (34448)

2.00 Racing from Newmarket (2852)

4.00 Fifteen-to-One (968)

4.30 Mrs Cohen's Money (852)

5.00 5 Pump (6863413)

5.15 Ffeil (5925413)

5.30 Countdown (332)

6.00 Newyddion (404413)

6.05 Heno (964790)

6.35 Bob Yn Ddau (773055)

7.00 Pobol y Cwm (191531)

7.25 Ffermio (356448)

8.00 Phwoar! (5852)

8.30 Darllediad Etholiadol Gan Blaid Cymru (612790)

8.35 Newyddion (823719)

9.05 Spin City (821887)

9.35 Roseanne (703697)

10.05 Etholiad 97 (581177)

10.20 Brookside (437500)

10.55 ER (955581)

11.50 Party Election Broadcast (494603)

11.55 Animation (870974)

12.05am Midnight Special (9390814)

1.35 Under the Moon (80350825)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (r) (60535)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (58429)

9.00 Bewitched (r) (T) (15871)

9.30 I'll Be Seeing You (1944, b/w) with Joseph Cotten, Ginger Rogers and Shirley Temple. A drama about a shell-shocked soldier who falls in love with a woman with a past. Directed by William Dieterle (15852)

11.00 Tintin (r) (9004516) **11.25** Mighty Mouse (4551448) **11.35** Extreme (r) (T) (3107993) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (38993) **1.30** Australia Wild (r) (34448)

2.00 Racing from Newmarket Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the **2.05, 2.35, 3.05** and **3.40** races (2852)

4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (968) **4.30** Countdown (T) (852) **5.00** Ricki Lake (T) (6968) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (332)

6.00 Party of Five (T) (713264)

6.50 Fresh Pop (540429)

7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (642142)

7.50 Thatcher's Children First-time voters discuss election issues (T) (677852)

8.00 Brookside Mick has bad news for the Corkhills; can Gladys keep up her brave face?; and is Susannah trying too much too soon? (T) (5852)

8.30 An Inspector Calls: Parking Patrol A look at the work of a group of Manchester traffic wardens. Among them is David Raglan, who has been in the job for 25 years and enjoys pounding the streets so much that he demoted himself and took a pay cut (T) (7887)

9.00 Heroes of Comedy: Les Dawson A four-part celebration of the legends of British comedy, beginning with a tribute to the late comedian (1/4) (T) (3581)

McGregor and Margulies (10.00pm)

10.00 ER The staff are standing by for any of the injured involved in a nearby hostage-taking incident. With Ewan McGregor and Julianna Margulies (T) (3968)

11.00 Friends: The One Where Ross and Rachel ... You Know Monica is attracted to a handsome doctor, who happens to be an old friend of the family and old enough to be her father. The actor Tom Selleck makes a guest appearance (r) (T) (8784)

11.30 Party Election Broadcast by the Conservative Party (318239)

11.35 Roseanne: Hit the Road Jack Dan prepares to leave Roseanne and return to California, leaving her to wallow in junk food (T) (614245)

12.05am Midnight Special Discussion series (9390814)

1.35 Under the Moon Sports magazine. Includes NBA XXL, High Five and Naked Sport: Be Like Mike (80350825)

5.35 Backdate (r) (T) (5019814)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News Early (7615784)

7.30 Havakazoo (2735142)

8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (2353871)

8.30 Wideworld: State of the Union Stephen Cole reviews the Reagan years (2352142)

9.00 Espresso (5425993)

10.00 Exclusive (r) (6660142)

10.30 Fame and Fortune: Ivana Trump (r) (2445806)

11.00 Leeza (9665790)

11.50 Double Espresso (r) (45239535)

12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful The day of Ridge's wedding arrives, but will the ceremony take place? (T) (2436158)

12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (T) (9310974)

1.00 5 News Update (92260210)

1.05 Sunset Beach Gregory buys the pictures of Olivia throwing a gun into the ocean Vanessa is accosted by thugs (T) (6362784)

2.00 5's Company (8425069)

Marie Osmond stars (3.30pm)

3.30 Side by Side (1982) with Marie Osmond, Joseph Bottoms and Amy Osmond. The story of Olive and George Osmond, parents of the musical Osmond family. Directed by Russ Mayberry (4240413)

5.20 5's Company: Late Extra (14200719)

5.30 100 Per Cent Quiz (1382177)

6.00 Whittle Quiz (T) (1372790)

6.30 Family Affairs Chris upsets Angus when he lets slip Sally's secret plans. Ducan receives an ultimatum (T) (1290142)

7.00 Exclusive Gossip (1117326)

7.30 Waterland: Valley Beneath the Sea The rich and varied habitats supported by the river Fal in Cornwall (T) (7497852)

7.50 Party Election Broadcast: The Conservative Party (5848887)

8.00 The Great Garden Game From the Mount Stewart Gardens, Co Down. This week's task is to rip out and replant hedges in three hours (T) (1299974)

8.30 5 News (1105581)

9.00 A Stoning in Fulham County (1988) with Ken Olin, Jill Eikenberry and Ron Perlman. Drama centring on the religious dilemma facing an Amish family after their eight-month-old baby is killed by four local teenagers. Directed by Larry Elikann (32900993)

10.50 Exclusive Extra (5017210)

11.00 Jack Docherty Show (6092005)

11.40 Tibs and Fibs Irreverent medical quiz with guests Janet Street-Porter and Richard Vranch (2587448)

12.10am Live and Dangerous Sports show including action from the US major league (34675479)

4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H Monica is in trouble (6439949)

5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (5300630)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday.

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (782103) 9.00 Regis and Kathie Lee (41968) 10.00 Another World (93518) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (99992) 12.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (76448) 1.00pm Geraldo (89968) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (71806) 3.00 Jenny Jones (85622) 4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (71429) 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (6177) 6.00 Real TV (6887) 6.30 Married — with Children (4239) 7.00 The Simpsons (7806) 7.30 M*A*S*H (9351) 8.00 Beverly Hills 90210 (11581) 9.00 Melrose Place (12345) 10.00 Murder One (55072) 11.00 Selina Scott (72158) 11.30 Star Trek: The Next Generation (95993) 12.30am LAPD (44833) 1.00 Hit Mix Long Play (8276578)

SKY 2

7.00pm Superboy (4510245) 7.30 Superboy (3190142) 8.00 Renegade (1642158) 9.00 New York Undercover (1655622) 10.00 Water Rats (1552581) 11.00 Late Show with David Letterman (6140603) 12.00 Hit Mix (8135456)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.10am Walk Like a Man (1987) (34856806) **8.00 All Hands on Deck** (1961) (82158) **10.00 The Giant of Thunder Mountain** (1990) (84826887) **11.45 Clambake** (1967) (52180429) **1.30pm Walk Like a Man** (1987) (27784) **3.00 Mr Music** (1950) (93581) **5.00 Clambake** (1967) (36332) **7.00 Guarding Tess** (1995) (80429) **9.00 The Quick and the Dead** (1995) (12264) **11.00 Hang 'Em High** (1968) (92852) **1.00am Alien Abduction: Intimate Secrets** (1995) (60765) **2.30 Guns of Dragon** (1993) (58681) **4.00 Top Secret! 15** (1984) (84185)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

8.00 The Flying Sorceror (1974) (67581) **9.00 Big Wheels and Sailor** (1970) (30806) **10.00 Stargate** (1994) (86871) **12.00 Major League II** (1994) (76351) **2.00pm Midnight Run for Your Life** (1994) (411581) **3.50 The Flying Sorceror** (1974) (5981974) **4.45 Big Wheels and Sailor** (1970) (230968) **5.45 Major League II** (1994) (14802142) **7.30 El News Week in Review** (2061) **8.00 Stargate** (1994) (11535) **10.00 Land and Freedom** (1995) (261790) **11.50 Prototype** (1991) (589784) **1.30am Six Degrees of Separation** (1993) (906901) **3.25 Reform School Girl** (1994) (7281475) **4.50 Sherlock Holmes: Sign of Four** (1993) (3540036)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Sinbad the Sailor (1947) (8376326) **8.00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer** (1992) (8371871) **10.00 Nico** (1988) (4362413) **11.45 The Deep** (1977) (69421351) **1.55am Rasputin: The Mad Monk** (1966) (9920543) **3.30-5.50 Two Flags West** (1950) (9533388)

TNT

9.00pm Meet Me in St Louis (1944) (69531142) **11.00 Wise Guys** (1986) (71357790) **12.40am Travels with My Aunt** (1972) (89802340) **2.30-5.00 Meet Me in St Louis** (1944) (53152369)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (43535) 7.30 Wrestling. Live Wire (82210) 8.30 Racing News (83871) 9.00 Sports Centre (50351) 9.30 Aerobics Oz Style (98055) 10.00 The Footballers' Football Show (55326) 11.00 Sports Unlimited (31790) 12.00 Aerobics Oz Style (47987) 12.30pm World Pool Masters (80993) 1.30 British Basketball (94790) 3.30 Football Hall of Fame (8429) 4.00 The Footballers' Football Show (19603) 4.59 Sports Centre (1688055) 5.00 Wrestling: Shotgun Challenge (4351) 6.00 Sports Centre (4413) 6.30 Grass Roots Rugby (1993) 7.00 Formula Three Racing (46245) 7.59 Sports Centre (958719) 8.00 World of Super League with Eddie and Stevo (63581) 10.00 Sports Centre (48516) 10.30 Golf Extra (9148336) 2.00am Coca-Cola Cup Final Replay: Leicester City v Middlesbrough (94833) 3.30-4.00 Sports Centre (19494)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Beach Volleyball (57485210) 1.00pm Golf Extra (12384871) 4.30 Skiff Sailing (42324622) 5.00 Iron Man (21268264) 5.30 Beach Volleyball (55396061) 6.30 Skiff Sailing (42230239) 7.00 Coca-Cola Cup Final Replay — Live: Leicester City v Middlesbrough (69653784) 10.00 Grass Roots Rugby (93483790) 10.30 Futbol Mundial (93396210)

EUROSPORT

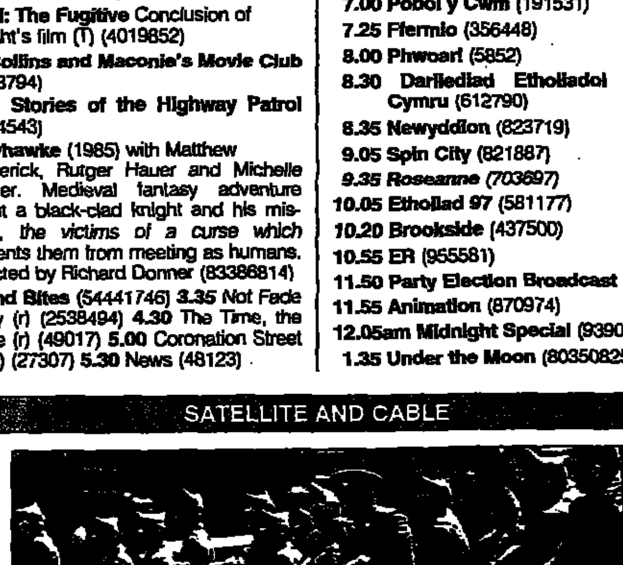
7.30am Cycling (97142) 9.00 IndyCar Long Beach Grand Prix (70581) 10.30 Wheelies Magazine (41603) 11.00 Kick Magazine (20719) 11.30 World Cup Legends (22719) 12.30pm Slam Magazine (94239) 1.00 Cycling: Fleche Wallonne — Live (11448) 3.00 Tennis: Troleo Conde de Godo — Live (48055) 5.00 Tennis: Troleo Conde de Godo (6719) 6.00 Motors Magazine (75158) 7.00 Pool. World Trickshot (52239) 9.00 Darts: 1996 World Championships (64697) 10.00 Heavyweight Explosion (67784) 11.00 ATP Tour Review (32500) 11.30-12.30am Motorsport: British Touring Car (35535)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (1353974) 7.35 Neighbours (5924351) 8.00 Crossroads (3866968) 8.25 EastEnders (6363790) 9.00 The Bill (1538910) 9.30 Don't Wait Up (2400531) 10.00 Never the Twain (4932784) 10.30 The Sullivans (6887662) 11.00 Casualty (98088413) 12.05pm Crossroads (78475036) 12.30 Neighbours (4305167) 1.00 EastEnders (8340887) 1.35 On the Up (6121166) 2.10 A Little Bit of Dawson (12895451) 2.20 Sorry! (8249061) 2.55 'Allo, 'Allo (7881035) 3.30 The Bill (2902871) 4.00 All Creatures Great and Small (5773697) 5.00 Larry Grayson's Generation Game (30947780) 6.05 EastEnders (4698210) 6.40 Sykes (1583142) 7.20 Russ Abbot (4763871) 7.50 Rising Damp (4536177) 8.25 In Sickness and in Health (8907622) 9.00 The Bill (5762581) 9.30 Frank Stubbs Promotes (45277210) 10.40 Sports Anorak of the Year (8589780) 11.10 Hazell (3355887) 12.10am The Best of Top of the Pops (5695746) 12.50 Rowland Rivron Bites the Bullet (6626901) 1.15 Callan (5527814) 2.15 Shopping at Night (28106272)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Krypton Factor (5575603) 6.30 The Return of the Antelope (2341210) 7.00 Classic Coronation Street (4954351) 7.30 Families (4940158) 8.00 Surprise, Surprise (4602871) 9.00 The Professionals (5584351) 10.00 Krypton Factor (2438790) 10.30 Doctor on the Go (5535239) 11.00 Within These Walls (4959806) 12.00 Classic Coronation Street (5632719) 12.30pm Families (6392055) 1.00 Crown Court (4953622) 1.30 The Good Life Guide (6391326) 2.00 A Family at War (2446719) 3.00 Upstairs, Downstairs (3124790) 4.00 Surprise, Surprise (3047697) 5.00 The Professionals (5779245) 6.00 Families (2982185) 6.30 Classic Coronation Street (8237577) 7.00 Surprise, Surprise (2983581) 8.00 Upstairs, Downstairs (2072429) 9.00 Classic Coronation Street (3036581) 9.30 The Comedians (6485719) 10.00-11.00 The Professionals (2982852)



Ian Hart stars in *Land and Freedom* (Movie Ch, 10.00pm)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Mouse Tracks (7555784) 6.25 Quack Attack (7647719) 6.50 Bonkers (1159448) 7.15 Little Mermaid (7588603) 7.40 Aladdin (4549719) 8.05 Quack Pack (7291564) 8.30 Goof Troop (96177) 9.00 Care Bears (3445326) 9.25 Pooh Corner (3520061) 9.50 Muppet Babies (8313871) 10.15 Grounding Marsh (6280969) 10.40 Sing Me a Story with Belle (1086622) 11.05 Paddington Peas (1952177) 11.10 Big Garage (9895448) 11.25 Lamb Chop (2073448) 11.55 Fraggle Rock (5178351) 12.20pm Timon & Pumbaa (8369500) 12.30 Boy Meets World (5814622) 12.55 Timon & Pumbaa (7768851) 1.05 Mouse Tracks (18477351) 1.30 Aladdin (3542516) 2.10 Goof Troop (46602239) 2.35 Bonkers [illegible]

TCC

[illegible]

CARTOON NETWORK

[illegible]

NICKELODEON

[illegible]

FOX KIDS NETWORK

[illegible]

TROUBLE

[illegible]

BRAVO

[illegible]

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

[illegible]

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

[illegible]

HOME & LEISURE

[illegible]

DISCOVERY

[illegible]

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

[illegible]

CHALLENGE TV

[illegible]

UK LIVING

[illegible]

ZEE TV

[illegible]

MTV

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VH-1

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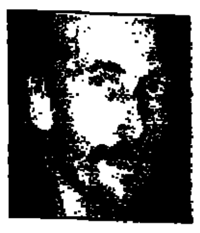


SIMON BARNES 53

Tiger Woods and the phenomenon of total eclipse

SPORT

TABLE TENNIS 53

Dominant Cooke keeps England on path to final

WEDNESDAY APRIL 16 1997

Middlesbrough face test of character

Replay drives Robson to distraction

By David Maddock

PROBABLE LINE-UPS	
MIDDLESBROUGH	LEICESTER CITY
M Schwarzer (or B Roberts) N Cox, N Pearson, G Festa, V Kinder (or C Fleming), R Mustoe, Emerson, C Hignett, Juninho *F Ravanelli, M Beck*	K Keller, S Grayson, S Walsh, S Prior, M Whitlow, G Parker, N Lennon, P Kaamark, M Izzet, S Claridge, E Heskey

Kick-off 7.45pm (live on Sky Sports 3)

HAVING suffered the anguish of conceding a goal late in extra time on successive Sundays, Middlesbrough must raise themselves for a third time tonight as they seek to offset a relegation battle with the silverware that the club has craved for 121 years.

Middlesbrough enjoyed their day out at Wembley, although their thoughts are now seemingly dominated by a chaotic end-of-season programme in which much larger issues are at stake than the Coca-Cola Cup final replay against Leicester City.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, did not exactly say as much yesterday, but he dwelt for a considerably longer period on the perceived injustice of not extending the season than he did on his side's prospects at Hillsborough. The hectic schedule that his side must endure, he said, means that the FA Carling Premiership game against Sunderland on Saturday assumes far more significance, given its influence over the relegation issue, than even the prospect of lifting Middlesbrough's first significant trophy.

"I have told the players that, even if we beat Leicester, there will be no celebrations," Robson said. "We cannot have a drink in the dressing-room afterwards because the game against Sunderland is so important. Clearly, our main priority is to stay in the Premiership, and we have to be ready for that match. Whichever side wins [on Saturday] will help themselves immensely at the bottom."

Robson is not amused by the Premier League's announcement that the season will not be extended to accommodate two semi-final replays, which have increased the number of games that Middlesbrough will be forced to play over the next three weeks. They may have to play as many as ten, including a daunting last week of four matches.

It is a sobering prospect that such an important issue as relegation from the Premiership, and the loss of attendant riches, can be decided by games against Aston Villa, Manchester United, Blackburn Rovers and Leeds United within nine days. No wonder that Robson was less than occupied with the Coca-Cola Cup.

"The Premiership have made it clear they are unwilling to budge," he said. "It is ridiculous. How are we expected to compete fairly against the other teams at the bottom of the table with all those matches? I remember the same thing happening at Manchester United, when we had to play four games in eight days at the end of the season when we were going for the title. The fact that we had to play so many games cost us the championship."

Given such an exhausting programme, it would be tempting to dismiss Middlesbrough's prospects this season, especially after comments made by Ravanelli suggesting that he needed a rest. Robson, though, pointed to the Italian's performance in the FA Cup semi-final against Chesterfield on Sunday. "He looked strong and full of energy," Robson said.

Leicester have no such diversions and will be hoping to capitalise on any exhaustion in the opposition camp. They are virtually clear of all relegation worries and victory tonight would crown a season that has already exceeded even the most optimistic expectations.

Leicester were favourites to go down but instead have reached one final and were only denied a possible place in the FA Cup quarter-finals by a controversial refereeing decision. They will also hope for at least mid-table respectability in the Premiership. This is English football, though, and therefore even such a success story must still have its disruptions. It comes in the form of Pontus Kaamark, the man-marker whose enthusiasm in suppressing Juninho at Wembley did so much towards earning his side a replay.

For all his ability in the role, Kaamark professed this week his distaste at performing such a task. That did not go down well with Martin O'Neill, the passionate and articulate Leicester manager, who responded to such insubordination with some acid. "Oh really," he replied when hearing of Kaamark's objections. "Well, maybe he won't have to do that job, because he might not be playing."

Leicester will probably be unchanged from the first match. Middlesbrough will wait on the fitness of Mark Schwarzer, their Australian goalkeeper, and Robson must choose between Kinder, who was dismissed on Sunday, and Fleming. A repeat of the closeness of the initial contest at Wembley is likely, but Leicester may prevail this time.

Kaamark makes mark ... 52
Liverpool's mission ... 52
Limpar leaves ... 52

Perfect weather greeted the start of the new season in the Parks, where the Durham opening batsmen were full of the joys of spring

GILL ALLEN

Test captains complaining of overwork

By Our Sports Staff

THE Sri Lanka captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, and his Pakistan counterpart, Wasim Akram, joined forces yesterday to call for a reduction in the number of matches on the international calendar.

Akram also proposed a longer break between one-day internationals to allow players adequate rest, rather than scheduling matches in quick succession to please spectators and sponsors.

"We are also human beings," he said shortly after arriving in Colombo for a two-Test series with Sri Lanka.

Ranatunga said he would support a cutback in the programme when the Test captains get together in July at a meeting arranged by the International Cricket Council.

While members of his squad practised at a local club ground, Akram said that he was doubtful for the first Test, which starts on Saturday. "My bowling arm is not 100 per cent," he said. "The ligaments have been weakened by playing too much cricket."

Akram, the only player with more than 300 wickets in both Test and one-day internationals, added: "The injury became quite bad in the recent Sharjah Cup tournament. The only cure is rest. I can neither bowl nor bat. I am taking my time to see if it improves, but my chances are quite remote."

Although Sri Lanka beat Pakistan in Sharjah, Akram said that he was confident of winning the Test matches. "I think we have the better five-day side and our fielding is stronger," he said.

Ranatunga admitted that Test matches were a "different ball game" but added that Sri Lanka, as the holders of the World Cup, were not short of confidence, despite a disastrous Test series in New Zealand last month.

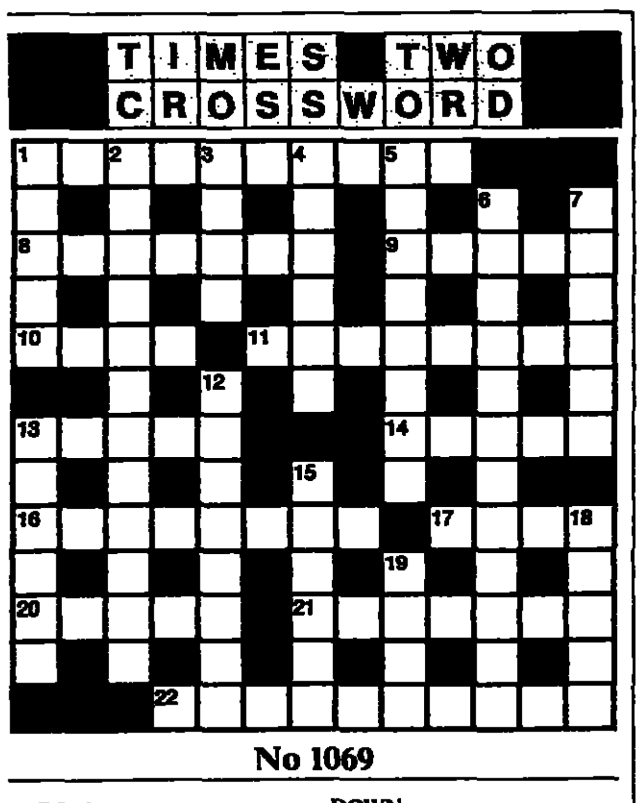
"That is all history now," Ramatunga said. "We are looking forward to doing well in the future. Pakistan have a good bowling line-up, but we have the batsmen to take care of it."

Two of the Pakistan party, Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed, along with the coach, Mushtaq Mohammad, have yet to arrive for the tour, which opens today with a two-day game against a Sri Lanka Board XI that will be captained by Marvan Atapattu.

Atapattu, who has replaced Asanka Gurusinha in the Test side, is one of the young Sri Lanka players who has impressed Akram.

"I think they need some young blood," he said. "They need a couple more batsmen like Atapattu, who is a good player. Then they will be all right."

Students struggle, page 54



No 1069

ACROSS
1 Addendum to letter (10)
8 Fabulous one-horned beast (7)
9 Academy Award (5)
10 Cook in dry heat (4)
11 Span. resort: *bore, mind (anag.)* (8)
13 Arbour (5)
14 Come in (5)
16 Stirring, arousing (8)
17 Muddle; fellow-diners (4)
20 Surface lustre (5)
21 Capital of Libya (7)
22 Long-lived patriarch; eight-bottle bottle (10)

DOWN
1 Lead weight; vertical (5)
2 Difficult position, esp. for batsman (6,6)
3 Fat, lazy person (4)
4 Smuggler; type of bean (6)
5 Made available; if (8)
6 Alone win jackpot (5,3,4)
7 Simple textbook; detonator (6)
12 Make-believe (8)
13 Part of body; boldly confront (6)
15 Grab quickly (6)
18 Hiss along; fashionable (5)
19 Prejudice (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1068

ACROSS: 1 Safety first 8 Ghana 9 Revenge 10 Then 11 Coolidge 13 Depend 14 Weasel 17 Sibelius 19 Flab 22 Whitsun 23 Flail 24 Femme fatale

DOWN: 1 Sight 2 Frame-up 3 Toad 4 Farrow 5 Revolver 6 Tuned 7 Reveal 12 Uncle Sam 13 Disown 15 Sultana 16 Nuance 18 Brief 20 Bulge 21 Offa

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1064
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ACROSS: 1 Paved 7 Unction 8 Poverty 9 Seville 11 Second 13 Give it a go 15 Crow's feet 19 Rodent 21 Leotard 23 Rapport 24 Bazooka 25 Dolls

DOWN: 1 Pepys 2 Vivace 3 Daring 4 Guy/s 5 Strict 6 Collage 10 Exeter 12 Differ 14 Arsenal 16 Wet rot 17 Torpid 18 Recoil 20 Titus 22 Drag

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All flights subject to availability.

Gould has president's backing

By Russell Kempson

BOBBY GOULD'S position as the manager of Wales appears to be safe after he was given a vote of confidence by Brian Fear, the president of the Football Association of Wales (FAW), yesterday. Gould could even be offered an extension to his contract, which expires in December, that would take him up to the European championship finals in the year 2000.

Fear was responding to recent criticism of Gould, who was accused by Nathan Blake, the Wales and Bolton Wanderers striker, of making racist remarks to him. Though Gould vigorously denied the claims, many FAW councillors were privately angered that the association should have become embroiled in a dispute of such a delicate and controversial nature.

Also, with Wales's group seven World Cup qualifying campaign having ended in apparent failure, it was seen as a possible opportunity to replace Gould, who took over in August 1995, and seek a successor to revive the Principality's fortunes. However, Fear has taken a more sympathetic view.

"Bobby has my backing and, I hope, [that of] the rest of the management committee," he said yesterday. "I don't think his job is on the line, it's not in danger as far as I am concerned. Two years is not long enough to do the job and I think he should have at least another contract through to the European finals."

Gould: under pressure

Gould has subsequently apologised to Blake for any misinterpretation of remarks that he made during the build-up to the game against Belgium in Cardiff last month. When Gould was handing out the coloured bibs for training, he told Blake that he was "in the blacks".

Blake complained to Neville Southall, the Everton goalkeeper and part-time Wales coach, and although Gould swiftly tried to resolve the issue, Blake declined the olive branch. It was only after the intervention of the Professional Footballers' Association that Blake eventually "acknowledged" Gould's apology.

"I'm sure Bobby's comments about Nathan were not meant to be taken seriously," Fear said. "He has been involved with many coloured players during his career, as a manager and player."

The seven members of the FAW management committee met in emergency session in Wrexham yesterday to discuss the matter. Neither Gould nor Blake was asked to attend.

A report was to be forwarded to the meeting of the 26-strong general council today, at which the anti-Gould lobby is expected to make its feelings known. "It is the full council's decision that holds sway," David Collins, the FAW secretary-general, said.

However, it is unlikely that any action will be taken, at least before December. The FAW is not overburdened with funds and would not be keen to have to pay Gould for the remaining eight months of his contract.

Uganda's late arrivals test the water

Craig Lord meets a small squad with bedraggled swimming aspirations

All was going swimmingly at the accreditation centre for the world short-course championships here in Gothenburg until three bedraggled and hungry young Ugandans walked through the door and declared themselves ready for competition.

Led by Suleiman Benwa, health instructor, coach, manager, baggage-handler, chaperon and the keeper of a small purse of Ugandan currency, this small squad of aquatic interlopers was informed that sending official entry forms to compete in world championships was the accepted protocol.

Benwa, 25, explained that everything had been such a rush since their federation had given leave for them to represent Uganda, and British Airways had offered free flights to London, that there had been little time left to plan.

While other teams have pysiotherapists, doctors, sports scientists, press officers and nutritionists on board, Benwa explained: "I even had to bring my work clothes with me in a laundry bag because there was no time to go home after work on Saturday."

The journey had begun badly, he said, with the women's team, or rather Joy N'Fashinggabo, getting lost at Entebbe airport and failing to make the plane. Ismail Walu Simbi, 17, had made it but refused to eat anything throughout the 36-hour journey to Sweden, which involved several hours slumbering on seats at Heathrow.

"He just hasn't eaten a thing," Nicola Wanyana, Benwa's assistant team manager, said. Benwa added: "I think Walu Simbi is going to faint. We cannot change our money and he needs his energy."

Walu Simbi certainly will on Friday, day two of the four-day event, when he attempts to improve his personal best time for the 100 metres breaststroke of 1min 20sec; all 46 other entrants have clocked 1min 10sec or faster.

After tucking into burgers, chips and Coke, courtesy of *The Times*, the elite of Ugandan swimming faced a wait at the pool. They could not afford hotel accommodation so Benwa's aunt, who lives in Gothenburg, had offered to put them up.

"She doesn't come home from work until five o'clock so we'll wait here — it's too cold to go out there anyway," Benwa, peering out at a few flakes of snow that had started to fall, said. Meanwhile, the Ugandans were waiting for news of N'Fashinggabo's fate — and whether their team would double overnight.

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JAPAN	29p	66p	56%
HONG KONG	35p	59p	40%
INDIA	59p	£1.02	42%
PAKISTAN	76p	£1-13	33%
GERMANY	19p	24p	21%
SWEDEN	18p	24p	26%
NETHERLANDS	20p	24p	17%
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